

LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

N° 2096.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1857.

Price Fourpence.
Stamped Edition, Fivepence.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.—NOTICE TO ARTISTS.—All Works of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, or Engraving, intended for the ensuing EXHIBITION at the ROYAL ACADEMY, must be sent in on MONDAY, the 6th, or TUESDAY, the 7th of April next, after which time no Work can possibly be received, nor can any Works be received which have already been publicly exhibited.

FRAMES.—All Pictures and Drawings must be in gilt frames. Oil Paintings under glass, and Drawings with wide margins are inadmissible. Excessive breadth in frames as well as projecting mouldings may prevent pictures obtaining the situation they otherwise merit. The other Regulations necessary to be observed may be obtained at the Royal Academy.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Sec.

Every possible care will be taken of Works sent for exhibition, but the Royal Academy will not hold itself accountable in any case of injury or loss, nor can it undertake to pay the carriage of any package.

The prices of Works to be disposed of may be communicated to the Secretary.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is Open Daily, from Ten till Five. Admission is. Catalogue 6d.

GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS, Portland Gallery, 316, Regent Street, opposite the Polytechnic Institution.—The above Society's Tenth Annual Exhibition of the Works of Modern Painters is NOW OPEN from NINE till DUSK. Admission One Shilling. Catalogue Sixpence each.

BELL SMITH, Secretary.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION at the WATER COLOUR GALLERY, 5, PALL MALL EAST, will Close on Saturday next, the 28th inst.

Admission, Morning, One Shilling; Evening, Sixpence.

ROYAL LITERARY FUND.—THE 68th ANNIVERSARY DINNER of the CORPORATION will take place in FREEMASONS' HALL on TUESDAY, the 19th of May. The EARL GRANVILLE, Lord President of the Council, in the Chair. The List of Stewards will be published in future Advertisements.

OCTAVIAN BLEWITT, Secretary.

73, Great Russell-Street, March 19, 1857.

ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, for the Relief of Decayed Artists, their Widows and Orphans. Instituted 1814, Incorporated 1842, under the immediate Protection of

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The Nobility, Patrons, and Subscribers are respectfully informed that the FORTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY DINNER will take place in FREEMASONS' HALL, on SATURDAY, the 4th of April next. The Right Hon. LORD DUFFERIN in the Chair.

W. J. ROPER, Assistant Secretary.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, LIVERPOOL.—MATRICULATION CLASSES.—Gentlemen who are desirous of Matriculating at the University of London next July are requested to communicate immediately with

Mount Street, Liverpool, ASTRUP CARLIS Secretary.

March 16, 1857.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Incorporated 7th William IV.—B, Grosvenor Street, London, W.—MEDALS for the YEAR 1856.—Full particulars respecting the ROYAL MEDAL, and the competition for the INSTITUTE MEDAL and the SOANE MEDALLION, may be obtained on application to the Honorary Secretaries, either personally or by letter, prepaid.

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The Quarter will commence on Tuesday, April 7th.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC, Baden, Upr. Rhine, and Paris, is now OPEN every evening (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock. Stalls, 3s.; Arcs, 2s. Half-price, every day, between Eleven and Four, without any extra charge. The Morning Representations take place every Tuesday and Saturday, at Three o'clock.

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HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS.—WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, June 3 and 4; at the GARDEN. Open Free to Fellows or holders of their Ivory Tickets, on June 3, at 11 o'clock, or June 4, at 10 a.m. Fellows and the holders of their Ivory Tickets may at the same hours be accompanied by any two Visitors producing 3s. Admission Tickets. Open to the Public, with 5s. Tickets, at 2 p.m., June 3, or with 2s. 6d. Tickets, 2 p.m., June 4. On both these days His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, President of the Society, has kindly intimated his intention of throwing open the grounds of Chiswick House to the Fellows of the Society and their friends.

SATURDAY, October 24, at WILLIS'S ROOMS. Open to Fellows or their Ivory Tickets, accompanied by any two friends bearing 2s. 6d. Tickets, at noon; to other visitors with 2s. 6d. Tickets, after 1 p.m.

Tickets are to be procured at the Society's Rooms, 21, Regent Street, under the following terms:—

Five Shilling Tickets will be charged 3s. 6d. each to Fellows, if paid for on or before May 23. After that day the full price must be paid by all. These Tickets admit the bearer early, as above stated, or after 2 p.m. on June 3; or they will each introduce two persons after 2 p.m. on June 4, at the Gardens, or at Willis's Rooms, October 24, after 1 p.m.

Half-Crown Tickets will be charged 2s. each to Fellows, if paid for on or before May 23, for the June Meeting; or on or before October 17, for the October Meeting. These Tickets admit the bearer to the Garden after 1 p.m. June 4, or at Willis's Rooms after 2 p.m. October 24.

N.B. On the days of Exhibition, Five Shilling Tickets will be charged 7s. 6d., and Half-Crown Tickets, 3s. 6d. each.

ART UNION OF LONDON.—Subscription List closes 31st instant. Prize-holders select from the Public Exhibitions. Every Subscriber of one Guinea will have, besides the chance of a Prize, two Prints—"The Clemency of Cœur de Lion," by H. C. Shenton, from the Historical Picture by John Cross, which gained the Government Premium of £300, and "The Piper," by E. Goodall, after P. Goodall, A.R.A.

GEORGE GODWIN, } Honorary Secretaries.

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444, West Strand, March 1857.

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MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOTHEY and JOHN WILKINSON, Auctioneers of Literary Property and Works illustrative of the Fine Arts, will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington Street, Strand, on MONDAY, March 30, and following Day, at One o'clock precisely, the highly interesting Collection of ENGRAVINGS formed by the late Rev. ALFRED HARFORD, containing Choice Specimens of the Works of the greatest Artists of the Italian, German, Dutch, Flemish, and French Schools, selected regardless of expense from the principal Collections that have been dispersed both in England and on the Continent during the last fifteen years. The impressions are remarkably fine, and generally in perfect condition. May be Viewed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday prior, and Catalogues had; if in the Country, on receipt of Two Stamps.

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IT'S FOR SWEDEN.

THE MAIL STEAM PACKETS, under Contract with the Swedish Government, being about to recommence their voyages between Grimsby and Gottenburg. Mails for conveyance by those Packets will be made up at this office on the Evening of Friday, the 20th instant, and on the Evening of every subsequent Friday, until further notice.

All Letters and Newspapers addressed to Gottenburg and Uddevalla, will be forwarded by these Packets, unless directed to be otherwise sent; but Letters and Newspapers for other parts of Sweden, intended to be transmitted by these Packets, must be specially addressed,—"Via Grimsby," or, "By Swedish Packet."

General Post-office, 17th March, 1857. ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.

ADDITIONAL MAILS TO CHINA.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, for establishing Packet communication with China, in connexion with the Overland India Mail leaving London, via Southampton, on the 20th, and via Marseilles on the 26th of each Month. Mails for China will accordingly be made up on those days, commencing on the 20th inst.

The branch Packets conveying these Mails will depart from Point de Gaile, and will call at Penang and Singapore.

This despatch of Mails will be additional to that now taking place on the 4th and 10th of each Month.

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HUGH MILLER'S
"TESTIMONY OF THE ROCKS."

21st March, 1857.
The Publishers regret that, notwithstanding the exertions made, the first impression has fallen short of the number ordered. It has been put to press again, and no time will be lost in preparing an adequate supply. The nature of the Illustrations, which require great care in printing, precludes the employment of Machinery in the present case; and the Publishers, therefore, request the indulgence of the Public and the Trade. The new issue will, it is hoped, be ready early in April.
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Part IV., concluding Vol. IV., will be sent to Press forthwith.

* * * Communications to be Addressed to the Author, at TEMPLE PLACE, STROOD, KENT.

March 21, '57]

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267

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The island supplies no particular economic product except some ironstone for smelting and sand for glass-making, besides building-stones, with clays and marls for the local manufacture of coarse pottery, bricks, and tiles; and therefore does not invite the mining speculator to penetrate its rocks and investigate its formation. The cliffs, however, expose its structure on every side; and not only, by their picturesque characters, add to the attractions presented by the island to the lovers of beautiful scenery, whether resident or tourists, but afford a continual source of interest in their inexhaustible supply of various fossils and other "curiosities" to the amateur as well as to the professional geologist. These relics may be always collected in abundance—from the little shells of land, river, and sea snails—nay, even from those of the tiny water-fleas and foraminifers, up to the bones of extinct tapir-like animals and the gigantic land-lizards of the Wealden.

From the peculiar, though simple, arrangement of the strata of which the island is composed, the cliff-sections afford facilities for the recognition of a vast series of clay, sandstone, limestone, and shale beds, occurring in a regular order of succession. The aggregate thickness of these consecutive strata is about 3000 feet, although the absolute height of the land above the sea in any part of the island is not more than 800 feet. This statement, apparently paradoxical to non-geological readers, may be understood by supposing three differently coloured layers of papier-mâché, or other flexible material, lying one on another, and cut into an irregular lozenge-shape similar to the form of the island. The middle (white) layer is to represent a thickness of about 400 feet of chalk; the lowest one (green), a series of clays and sandstones, about 600 feet thick, beneath the chalk; and the uppermost (grey), a thickness of about 2000 feet of sands, clays, limestones, and marls above the chalk. Thus placed, the layers would represent the original relative position of the whole series of sedimentary deposits constituting the island (and to some extent that of the strata of the neighbouring coasts of Sussex, Hants, and Dorset). Now bend the threefold sheet of papier-mâché across its longest diameter with a double curvature (not amounting to a fold), so that, each half of the sheet remaining horizontal, one-half shall be raised up, and the green or lowest layer of the raised half correspond in level to the grey or uppermost layer of the

other half. Between the two halves, thus disarranged, the three layers will be for a small space more or less vertical, curving off above and below in different directions. This central curved portion represents the narrow area crossing the Isle of Wight from east to west, where the chalk is vertical, as seen both in the chalk-pits on the downs inland, and at the coast at Culver Cliff on one side, and at the Needles on the other side, (the vertical chalk of Handfast Point, in Purbeck, showing the continuation of this curvature still further west). To the north of this transverse line, the strata overlying the chalk are seen at first partaking of the curvature above referred to, and then stretching away horizontally, modified by certain undulations, and with the loss of considerable portions of their upper surface from ancient destructive agencies; here and there they are partially coated with gravelly beds of more modern age. To the south of the central transverse line, not only have all the tertiary or overlying beds been swept away, but an extensive area of the chalk itself, and considerable portions of the underlying beds also; so that in our papier-mâché model the raised half would have to be pared down through all the grey layer, and to a considerable extent through the white layer, into the green one, leaving an irregular ridge of the white crossing the lozenge to represent the central chalk downs, and three or four irregular white patches, of higher elevation than the middle ridge, to represent the St. Catherine's and other downs near the south coast. To represent the relative water-level of the coasts, we must place the supposed model in water, so that both the green and the white layers of the unraised half be immersed, leaving only the grey layer visible; whilst in the other or raised half, the green or lowest layer is visible above water.

As the tertiary beds (or grey layer of the model) constitute all that is seen above the sea in the cliffs of the northern portion of the island—and as the chalk, greensands, and Wealden (white and green layers), form the cliffs of the southern part, we have, with the connecting link of the central and curved strata, a complete view of the whole series of 3000 feet thickness of successive strata: a condition of things common under various modifications in many parts of the world, and well known to geologists, as often indispensable for the accurate study of the constitution of the earth's crust.

From 1816, when Webster first described the geology of the Isle of Wight, to 1853, when the attention of the Government Geological Surveyors was directed to this part of the country, a certain succession of strata, characterized both by their relative positions and by the groups of fossil remains peculiar to each, was recognised; the above-described arrangement, by which all the various strata are so clearly brought to light in the cliffs, exhibiting a complete series of deposits and fossils from the Wealden to the Lower Tertiaries inclusive.

This Lower Tertiary, or Eocene series, in the Isle of Wight, comprises the following groups:—1. Mottled clays (about 100 feet thick), resting on, or rather (from their nearly vertical position) against the chalk, and the equivalent of the fluvio-marine sands and clays of Woolwich and Reading, so well described by Mr. Prestwich. As there are other plastic clays than these—the neighbour- ing but younger plastic clays of Dorsetshire,

in particular, being extensively used in pottery manufacture, it is to be regretted that in this Government Memoir Mr. Prestwich's well-established appellation of "Woolwich and Reading Series" for these lowest clays has been ignored, and his well-founded arguments for the correction of the nomenclature disregarded. 2. Dark-coloured and sandy clay (about 250 feet thick), of marine origin, and known in the eastern and south-eastern counties, where it occurs in much greater mass, as "London Clay." (Nos. 1 and 2 form the "Lower Eocene.") 3. Sands and clays, more than 1000 feet thick, and termed indifferently "Bracklesham" or "Bagshot" beds, being well characterized at both of these localities. 4. Sandy brownish clays (about 300 feet thick), known as the "Barton beds," from the Barton cliffs, where they were first studied, and overlaid by about 150 feet of sands. Nos. 3 and 4 constitute the "Middle Eocene," and, like the lower group, are also regarded as being partly of fresh-water and partly of marine origin, forming the second fluvio-marine group. 5. Limestones, sands, and clays (about 170 feet thick), chiefly of fresh-water origin, but containing some bands of marine shells. These form the Headon group. 6. The fresh-water or estuarine sands, limestone, and clay of the Osborne group (70 feet thick). 7. The Bembridge group of limestone and clays (about 110 feet thick), of fresh-water origin and rich in land shells and bones of land quadrupeds. 8. The Hempstead group (160 feet thick), consisting of clays and marls, containing marine and fresh-water shells. Nos. 5 to 8 constitute the Upper Eocene series of the Isle of Wight, and are "the fluvio-marine Tertiaries" *par excellence*, though really the third or uppermost series of beds of that mixed origin here seen above the chalk.

The cliff at Headon Hill had always been regarded as exhibiting, in its numerous beds, with fresh-water and marine shells, the whole local series of fluvio-marine strata peculiar to this portion of the Tertiary formation; and in the corresponding cliff-section at Whitecliff Bay, at the opposite side of the island, observers had always thought that they traced, among the frequently repeated marls, clays, and limestone bands, a similar, though somewhat modified group of beds to that at Headon Hill. It was thought also that the Tertiary area of the island (northern half) was formed by the lower portions of the fluvio-marine beds. The late Professor E. Forbes, however, on careful examination of the position, characters, and fossils of each bed, in 1851-52, found that earlier writers had been in error, and that really a higher, or younger, and hitherto unrecognised member of the series (the Bembridge group) was present at White cliff Bay, its lower bed only being traceable near the top of the Headon Hill section. Further than this, Professor Forbes discovered that on the western side of the island not only was this higher group in full development, and preserved from denudation, having been left down to a low level by the peculiar undulations which the strata of the island have experienced, but that near Yarmouth, at the Hempstead Hill cliff, it was actually capped by a still higher group of beds, characteristically distinct, though of limited extent. The difference in the character of this uppermost, or Hempstead group, from the Headon beds had already been partly recognised by Mr. Prestwich, but without any direct conclusions having been arrived at.

By the recognition of these higher or younger groups of the fluvio-marine Eocene Tertiaries, Professor E. Forbes was enabled to correct the erroneous collocations of the English and foreign Tertiaries published by former observers, and to frame a system of correlation more consonant with reality,—or rather, had he not, alas! been cut off in the midst of his labours, we should long ago have been in possession of his full description of these discoveries, and his matured views of the subject.

In May, 1853, Professor Forbes communicated to the Geological Society a concise view of the results of his late researches (printed in the 'Quarterly Geological Journal,' vol. ix.). Of his intended memoir on the subject, before his lamented decease, "much of the descriptive part had been written out in full from the field note-books" (p. ix.); but little else besides, except the indication of the general plan, and most of the plates illustrative of the fossils, had been prepared.

No one, perhaps, was so well calculated to fill up the outline-sketch of the geological history of the Upper Tertiaries of the Isle of Wight, left by the lamented paleontologist of the Geological Survey, than his friend and executor, Mr. Robert Godwin-Austen, one of the best of our philosophical geologists, who "has acted as the principal editor of the work;" and the details of the stratigraphical lists and fossils have had able exponents in Mr. Bristow, Mr. Morris, and the other gentlemen mentioned in the preface. The result of the combined labours of these friends and former colleagues of Professor E. Forbes is seen in the work before us, which forms one of the volumes of memoirs published from time to time by the Geological Survey.

In this volume, which, like others of the series, is valuable without being bulky, we find, after a brief "Notice" by the Director-General, an important "Preface" by Mr. Godwin-Austen, in which he particularly describes the material left in his hands available for the Memoir, and indicates the portions which, left unfinished in the MSS., have been written by the editor from Mr. Forbes's notes and observations. He expresses, too, his regret that there unfortunately remain several divisions of the subject, of which so little more than the headings had been prepared, that he has not felt justified in even giving a *resumé* of his late friend's views.

The superficial accumulations of gravel and brick-earth are first treated of, and indeed form a separate and unconnected division of the work, an 'Introductory Review of the Geology of the Isle of Wight' next succeeding it (partly by the editor), p. 12. From one or two typal errors in the brackets, it is not at first sight easy to recognise which is the editor's own. 'An Analysis of previous Papers on the Isle of Wight District' next follows (p. 19), in which the researches of Mr. Webster, Professor Sedgwick, M. Dumont, M. Hébert, and Mr. Prestwich (by the editor), are carefully stated. A brief notice of the 'Lower Tertiary Strata of the Isle of Wight' is then given by the editor (p. 32), followed by a concise 'Table of the Lower Tertiary (Eocene) Strata of the Isle of Wight,' with their thicknesses and characteristic fossils (p. 36). Professor E. Forbes's description of the 'Upper Fluvio-marine Formation of the Isle of Wight' succeeds (pp. 37-90), the Hempstead, Bembridge, Osborne, and Headon series being taken in succession. This description

comprises—first, a stratigraphical account of each series, the several groups of strata that are distinguished by peculiar fossils and other physical characters being separately numbered (the individual beds are enumerated by Mr. Bristow in another part of the book); secondly, a list of the fossils found in the series (and named in accordance with the latest researches); thirdly, the foreign equivalents of the series. Professor Forbes's notes on the sands beneath the Headon series, and on the geological history of the British area during the formation of the Upper Tertiaries, are unfortunately wanting. The 'Note on the Tables of Fossils,' however, that succeeds (in brackets, p. 90), with its two valuable tables, indicates the more important bearings of this interesting subject. A 'General View of the Foreign Equivalents of the Upper Tertiary Series,' carried out in detail by Mr. Forbes only as far as the Spanish peninsula is concerned, and by the editor as far as relates to the south-west of France, but illustrated by a comprehensive 'Table of the British and Foreign Equivalents,' concludes the Memoir itself, and brings us through the larger half of the volume.

The remaining portion is occupied by—1st. 'Notes by Mr. H. W. Bristow;' 2nd. 'Descriptions of the Plates of Fossils,' or rather, of the fossil shells in the order in which they occur in the plates, by Mr. J. Morris; 3rd. 'Notes on the Entomostraca,' by Mr. T. R. Jones; and 4th. 'Note on the Gyrogonites (Chara),' by Mr. J. W. Salter.

Mr. Bristow's notes comprise, in the first place, descriptions of several local exposures of some of the superficial deposits of the island; 2dly, detailed lists of the Upper Tertiary strata, carefully noted and measured, where they are best exposed in the cliffs; with remarks on the sequence of the beds seen in the several detached sections, on their relations to the strata observed in quarries and cuttings inland, and on their economic products; 3rd, on the Medina valley, and the north and south line of fault which has shifted the level of the strata on either side of the valley, and in which it originated; 4th, sectional lists of the strata between the upper fluvio-marine series and the chalk, accompanied with occasional descriptive notes, and followed by a 'Table of the Thicknesses of the Strata in the Isle of Wight' (from the Wealden to the Hempstead series inclusive), and a notice of the "economics," or mineral products of the island. The fossil shells, figured for the illustration of the memoir by Mr. C. Bone, and described by Mr. Morris, occupy six plates, of which two are devoted to the Hempstead series, and, among twenty-one characteristic species, include ten new forms; one plate, for the Bembridge marls, has eight new among seventeen figured species; and three Headon plates illustrate twenty-six species, of which ten are new. The Entomostraca, described by Mr. Rupert Jones, are the minute bivalved crustaceans characterizing the so-called cypris-shales, abundant in the upper fluvio-marine Tertiary series; but neither of the four species here described (of which three are new) are referred to the genus *Cypris*. The little fossil fruits of the *Chara*, found in these upper Tertiary beds, are considered by Mr. Salter to represent three species only; but the varieties met with are described as five species, in accordance with the notes left by Mr. Forbes. The seventh lithograph plate illustrates these Entomostraca and *Chara*.

Geologists, both at home and abroad, cannot fail to fully appreciate the value of this memoir. The amateur geologist, visiting the Isle of Wight, will prove its use when tracing out for himself the beds and groups of strata so clearly detailed in the sectional lists, wood-cut diagrams, and engraved map and sections; nor can he fail to learn both the zoological and geological value of his fossils by the aid of the plates, descriptions, and references in the work. For the professional and theoretical geologists there are indications of what remains to be done in working out the geological history of the later deposits of the island, and of what is still wanted towards the completion of a comprehensive and correct view of the chronological and geographical relations of the seas, estuaries, and rivers, by means of which the upper fluvio-marine Tertiaries of the south of England and the neighbouring European area were deposited, and towards a clear knowledge of the relative changes of land and sea that have occurred since the epoch of their formation.

In the Isle of Wight we have but little evidence of the wide old Eocene sea which immediately succeeded the cretaceous epoch—in some places continuous with the chalk-ocean, and only gradually assuming the tertiary character; in other places encroaching at a later date upon the up-lifted chalk-lands—but everywhere subsequently giving place to terrestrial conditions, under which were formed extensive beds of lignites (composed of forest-trees and other land-plants), with alternating fresh and salt-water deposits, constituting the first (or lowermost) fluvio-marine series of the Lower Tertiary, Eocene, or Nummulitic formation, as it is variously termed. The London clay, the Bracklesham and Bagshot sands, and the Barton clay, are the extreme western deposits of the succeeding great ocean which reached from Bengal, throughout Europe, to England, and was characterized by vast accumulations of minute and coin-shaped animals, the shells of which enter largely into the composition of hundreds of square miles of thick strata, now often upraised, and contributing not a little to the mountain-masses of the Alps and the Himalayas, and known as the Nummulitic Rocks. In the Western European area this great nummulitic sea ended in gulfs and bays which received the rivers of the then "far west." From the successive oscillations of the level of the land and sea, very variable deposits were formed in these western bays and estuaries during the long period for which the nummulitic era lasted; and, within certain limits, the groups of shells, &c., inhabiting the waters, and of quadrupeds, &c., on the dry land, were variable also. During this era a second fluvio-marine series is evidenced by the Bracklesham group of beds; and a third, or "the upper fluvio-marine" (the special subject of this memoir), was the result of the alternate dominion of river and sea over this area before the western portion of the great nummulitic basin was shoaled up, and a new set of geographical conditions came into existence.

These manifold deposits, or rather limited areas of these tertiary deposits, more or less obscured by superficial gravels and loams, are now left to us in the Hampshire, London, and Paris basins especially. Geologists have been long at work on the interesting but puzzling task of unravelling the complicated relations of these disjointed fragments of variable strata, and of correlating them according to

their respective positions and the characters of their materials and their fossils, or, in other words, of marking out the probable bounds of the sea and land at the Eocene period. Towards the accomplishment of this aim—the development of this “subterranean geography,”—the advancement of a knowledge of geology generally, and a more perfect acquaintance with an interesting portion of our own country in particular, the Memoir under notice is a most valuable acquisition. Its value would necessarily have been greater had its author lived to carry out his views, to complete his manuscripts, and to have profited by the enlarged knowledge of the European tertiary deposits which several of the English, French, and German geologists have lately obtained.

Although we might quote from this Memoir several passages highly suggestive of philosophic views of geological phenomena, and many clear expositions of the relations of strata and fossils, there is in it but little attempt at literary excellence;—indeed, the unfinished condition of the author's manuscripts and notes may be sometimes accepted as a reason for the frequently loose style of expression admitted by the editor, but which, although generally intelligible to geologists, should not be countenanced in a scientific work issued under Government authority. We meet with the following carelessly constructed phrases—“the highest member of the Hampshire basin” (p.v.); “tertiary superficial area” (p.17); “deep fresh-water deposits” (p. 33); “oysters of a different species, form, and much larger size than any,” &c. (p.39); “accumulated beneath an area which was continuously subaqueous” (pp. 90, 91); “central crystalline region of France” (p.98); “large angular flint gravel” (p.104), &c. Obscure contractions also used in the manuscripts have frequently eluded the editor, not only in the table at p.101 (where “Upper Tongrien,” &c., and the English and French modes of spelling the same locality in one column, exemplify, perhaps, the Anglo-French alliance), but also in the other lists and tables. Three or four false concords in the Latin names of fossil shells have also crept in (pp. 8, 74, 81, 154); and a list of upwards of twenty printer's errors should have been inserted, together with a more perfect “Table of Contents” than that given, which is not quite correct in its first few lines, and does not indicate Mr. Bristow's valuable stratigraphical notes, and the supplemental descriptions of the fossils.

The illustrations of the Memoir are numerous, and for the most part good. Mr. Lowry's engravings and Mr. Bone's lithographs are first-rate. Mr. Bristow's woodcut sections are neatly drawn and finished; but in several of the larger wood engravings the artists can scarcely be supposed to have caught the spirit of the author's drawings, if the latter had the usual character and power of Mr. Forbes's pencil—indeed, some are but rough pictorial diagrams, with the points of stratigraphical detail (as in most of the smaller sectional diagrams) anything but perfect.

In spite of these shortcomings, the Memoir has been brought out in a creditable manner; personal exertion has not been spared, and the results of collateral research have been freely communicated; and this volume on the Isle of Wight, founded on the notes and sketches of the lamented palæontologist of the Survey—enlarged by the supplementary researches of Bristow, Morris, Jones, and Salter, edited

by Godwin-Austen, and completed under the auspices of Sir Roderick Murchison—is, indeed, not only a valuable addition to the publications of the Geological Survey, but is an interesting and not unworthy monument raised to the memory of a great and good geologist by the combined exertions of some of his admirers and friends.

From Bombay to Bushire and Bussora, &c.

By William Ashton Shepherd. Bentley. This little book consists of a narrative of the usual incidents which occur to the traveller in Eastern countries, told in the lively style of a young officer. Five years ago, it seems, the author went out to India as a cadet, and since that time has paid two visits to the Persian Gulf. From the diaries kept during that period the present book has been compiled, to meet the demand for information about Persia produced by our present relations with that power.

It opens with the author's first landing in India, and with an account of the impression it made upon him while yet a “griffin,” a word which represents to our Anglo-Indian community the same idea as a “fox” to the German Burschen, or a “freshman” to an Oxonian or a Cantab. His opinion of India is not favourable. Bombay is a heap of dirty rubbish, the natives are sunk in degradation, superstition, and filth, from which the Company make no effort to raise them. The heat elicits from the pen of a brother officer some blank verses which give a vivid idea of the lassitude and weakness produced by the climate.

In due time Mr. Shepherd becomes attached to the H. E. I. C.'s navy, as medical officer, we suppose, and sails in the steam frigate *Questionable* for the Persian Gulf. We scarcely know whether this frigate with the questionable name be a myth or a reality.

The first place she touches at is Muscat, a sea-port town of Arabia Deserta. Here the author is presented to the Imaum, a fine old man, and we have the usual details of salaams, pipes, coffee, and sherbet. The schoolmaster, however, is abroad, and has penetrated even to this remote and miserable scene of ruin, desolation, and slavery. The Imaum's interpreter turns out to be an enlightened gentleman educated at Highgate, where he appears, from his appreciation of good things, to have taken the well-known oath. He addresses the party in excellent English, and drinks rum punch like a good Christian.

From thence the *Questionable* sailed to the island of Khismis, where the author was entertained by a merchant named Cadada, who seems to have been an intelligent person. The insecurity of life and property under the despotic governments of the East, and the stagnation of industry which this generates, are strikingly illustrated in the following dialogue. Cadada says:—

“What you think to that watch, master? You think that good one?” drawing out from an inside pocket a handsome hunting engine-turned gold watch, with all recent improvements, and bearing on the face the name of the maker, M'Cabe, Cornhill. “I gave sixty toman for that,” (about as many pounds sterling.) “I know that good watch. You see that name; all gentlemen have that man's watch; that best maker. Shah of Persia have that man's watch; all big Persians have that man's watch.”

“And that is the reason why you have it?” I replied.

“No, me not Persian, thank God; me Arab.”

“But why would not a very much cheaper one than this do? you might have had one for a quarter of the money,” (mentioning the amount in toman,) “that would go as well as this, and lasted you your lifetime.”

“Master, what your dress cost; coat, shirt, everything?”

“About ten toman,” I replied.

“And you have three, four, altogether cost thirty toman. You see this?” (pointing to his turban and robes); “altogether my dress cost one toman. You eat breakfast, dinner, tea; drink wine, brandy, grog; smoke cigars; every day cost half toman. Cadada curry rice, eat little bread, drink water every day, cost so much” (pointing to the palm of his hand which held nothing, and signified the minuteness of the sum he intended to express). “Your clothes, dinner, every day eat, cost plenty money; what mine cost? You spend one day what I spend one year; that what mine cost. You put your money in Government treasure chest, all safe. Cadada nowhere put money; buy watch, buy rings. I take my watch, look time, sixty toman say ‘two o'clock’; put my watch in my pocket, tie, tie; live thing say ‘sixty toman’; that my pleasure, that my money; what money I not buy watch, rings with, I hide. Plenty man do so; every people do so; no security here like England; my life not safe. One man tell shah, ‘Cadada speak bad word, make plot’; shah say ‘Cut Cadada head off.’ One man tell governor there, (pointing to the main,) ‘Cadada plenty money; governor say, ‘Take half.’ If law all same here as England, I think make this island, make Persia, best country in the world; plenty thing grow, plenty money, plenty eat; now I no care, nobody no care make thing grow; when nobody no care, God no care, and nothing grow.”

The ship next visited Bahren, where the author had an opportunity of visiting the pearl fishery, and of witnessing the operations of the divers, who descend one by one without a diving bell, and remain about five minutes under water at a time. They are miserable creatures, covered with botches and blanes, and die young. After an extract from an “old author,” describing the pearls and the manner of obtaining them, Mr. Shepherd recommends that a company should be formed, under the name of the “Anglo-Persic Pearl-dredging Company,” and that it should work the fisheries in a systematic manner. He thinks it would be able to pay a large dividend.

Bushire is the next point visited, and at the present moment we are of course anxious to know something about it. When Mr. Shepherd saw it, in his opinion the fortifications would tumble down at the first discharge of the few brass ten-pounders with which they were armed. The recoil and the concussion would pull the crumbling white sandstone, worn in many places by the weather till it is no thicker than brown paper, about the artillerymen's ears. To a handful of irregulars without a field piece, it might offer some defence. Nevertheless, the Persians believe it to be impregnable, and a certain official, named Ally, replied to the author's assertion that it might be taken by the Company's troops, by saying:

“Spouse ever come here; Persian not fight, but make slave, kill your black army.”

They are now undecieved.

After the usual visit of ceremony, and full justice has been done to the coffee, tobacco, and sherbet, the governor goes on board the frigate, and is astonished by a sight of the ball-practice, made by the great swivel gun which she carries in her bows. This performance must have shaken his faith in the power of his crumbling walls to resist our metal and skill.

Mr. Shepherd is a great admirer of Colonel Rawlinson, and does not think much of Mr. Murray. The following discourse from the mouth of his friend Ally seems in itself reasonable enough, and in accordance with the Asiatic tone of thought:—

“Master, what for your Government send Mr. Murray to Teheran?” I explained his mission. “You think your Government plenty wise, send Mr. Murray from Turkey to Shah of Persia? Mr. Murray long time at Cairo. Plenty like Turks; Shah of Turkey no like Turk. Mr. Murray great friend to Pacha Egypt; Pacha Egypt give Mr. Murray fine horse; I see it, every Bushire man see it. Shah of Persia not like Pacha Egypt. Imaum Muscat give Mr. Murray fine horse; Shah of Persia, Imaum Muscat, all same as that (drawing his hand across his throat). ‘But what has all this got to do with Mr. Murray and his mission?’ ‘Everybody in bazaars say, ‘Mr. Murray friend Turkey, Shah Persia no love Turkey. ‘Spouse master want one favour, one big man have; master send friend of big man enemy to beg; that not wise. I think master send friend of big man’s friend; and then master get what master want. Your Government send Mr. Murray, friend of Pacha Egypt, friend of Turks, friend of Imaum of Muscat, to ask favour of Shah of Persia. I think that not plenty wise. * * * What for your Government not send Colonel Rawlinson? Everybody like Colonel Rawlinson; all Persia know Colonel Rawlinson; Shah of Persia know Colonel Rawlinson; Colonel Rawlinson plenty wise. ‘Spouse your Government send Colonel Rawlinson; all Persian say, ‘this man plenty wise, this man stop Bagdad plenty time; plenty know, plenty like Persian; this man no humbug. ‘Shah of Persia say, ‘Colonel Rawlinson plenty wise, Colonel Rawlinson my friend. What Colonel Rawlinson want, that I give!’ ‘Ally may be considered as the spokesman of his nation in this matter.”

Mr. Shepherd next went to Bussora, which he calls the “city of ruins and dirt.” Persia, like all the Mahomedan nations, seems to be “sick;” “from the crown of the head to the soles of the feet there is no sound place in them.” There are evidences of the existence of flourishing cities all along the coast, and the Portuguese settlements were evidently seats of active industry and commercial activity. But now the grinding despotism of the government, the fatalism of the popular religion, and a frightful corruption of morals, seem to have dried up all the springs of improvement and progress. The author’s chief occupation while at Bussora was hunting the wild boars, which abound in a marsh contiguous to the city. Of this sport he gives an animated account. But with the modern appliances of rifles, it is a very different thing from that exciting chase which the Dutch painters and workers in tapestry delighted to preserve on their canvasses. It is, nevertheless, not unattended with danger to incautious sportsmen, and the pursuer, who is Mr. Shepherd’s butt, narrowly escaped a broken leg or worse from a wounded pig.

The “conclusion” consists of a review of our relations with Persia, together with the “general order” of the Governor-General of India with respect to the Persian war, bearing date, “Fort William, November 1, 1856,” and Sir Henry Leake’s despatch containing the narrative of the capture of Bushire. Mr. Shepherd is strongly of opinion that the only means of saving our Indian empire, which he calls “the brightest jewel in Queen Victoria’s crown,” from the aggressions of Russia, is thoroughly to humble the Persians preparatorily to making them our friends. After this, Persia should be “restored to its integrity,” and be made “a strong, neutral,

and independent nation between British India and Russia.” Yes, but that is the difficulty. The attempt to create a “strong neutral” nation out of the inherently corrupt and weak despotisms of the East, invariably ends in our virtually taking the government into our own hands; and this develops again into actual annexation. Where it is to end, it is difficult indeed to foresee. With a view to bringing about the independence of Persia, Mr. Shepherd lays down a plan for destroying her sea-ports, by means of gun-boats, and taking possession of the country. It seems plausible enough, but our knowledge of military and naval tactics is not sufficient to enable us to pronounce upon its merits. The first step, however, is to appoint Colonel Rawlinson our minister to the Court of Teheran.

“If ever occasion called for a skilful pilot,” says Mr. Shepherd in conclusion, “to conduct our relations with Persia, one who is well acquainted with the affairs of both sides, it is the present. Such a one is to be found in Sir Henry Rawlinson, who, from his knowledge of the country, its wants and resources, his mastery of its past and present history and language, his known powers of judgment and diplomacy, would not fail, in such a position, to carry with him the confidence not only of his own countrymen, but of the Persians also; as exemplified by an anecdote current in Persia not a year since, and related to me by our friend Ally, a saying of the Shah, that the presence of Colonel Rawlinson at the court of Teheran is ‘all the same as an army of sepoys, master.’”

On the whole, we believe that Mr. Shepherd really visited the places and witnessed the scenes which he describes, though his book has sadly the air of a compilation by a professional book-maker. His knowledge of Lalla Rookh and Goldsmith’s History is good, and the book is altogether a creditable production for a young officer who has just joined his ship.

History of France in the Sixteenth Century. The League and Henry IV. By J. Michelet. [Histoire, &c.] Paris: Chamerot.

This book deserves to be quoted as an instance of the difficulty which a man of genius always finds in writing ill upon anything. It offers every imperfection that can possibly result from the union of extreme carelessness with extreme eccentricity. It has just as much form and method as the unwelcome necessity of narrating certain events in the order of their occurrence must impose upon the most recalcitrant author—just enough delineation of character to show that the writer is dimly aware that his readers may be sufficiently unreasonable to expect such a thing—just enough attempt at philosophy to cause us to rejoice that M. Michelet, unlike Iago, can be something without being critical. And something he is, undoubtedly. For although the work is really not so much the history of a particular period, as a common-place book of remarks relating to it, the remarks themselves are frequently so profound, so novel, so just, bearing such evident traces of the intuition of genius, that these are pages not to be read without a succession of pleasurable surprises and involuntary starts of admiration. M. Michelet is more of a lyrist than of a logician; his works are all kaleidoscopic juxtapositions of gorgeous fragments, not finished pictures whose brilliancy is only one charm out of a thousand. He is a bad guide, but an excellent companion. The impressions of a person previously unacquainted with the history of the League, and endeavouring to gain a knowledge of it from his

pages, would probably be more curious than just; but the reader of Smedley, or any other standard historian, would find that, if M. Michelet had not actually given him many new facts, or materially modified his prior opinions, he had, at all events, opened many fresh trains of thought, and rendered his survey of the subject more comprehensive, his grasp of it more certain, his convictions more intense, and his impressions more vivid.

“I have,” says M. Michelet, “previously treated of the wars of religion; this is a book of intrigues under the pretext of religion.” In truth, the prodigious wave of enthusiasm that had carried all men’s minds before it for fifty years, was rapidly subsiding in the days of the League. Mighty controversies still remained to be decided, but their issue was intrusted to men comparatively feeble. Prophets had given place to politicians, the Emperor of the Holy Roman dominion to the King of Spain, Luther to Beza, Loyola to Aquaviva. England alone, flourishing then under the greatest of her sovereigns, could be said to have gained; nor, perhaps, had France lost much, for the Protestant cause in that country had never commanded the respect due to that of England or of Germany. It was far too much mixed up with private interests and partisan quarrels. We cannot tell, even at this day, whether Condé and Coligny were more intent upon religious liberty or personal aggrandizement, and a cause admitting of such a doubt is not worth contending for. The Promised Land is not to be won by any conceivable multitude of Achæans. From the moment that Charles IX. had an excuse for regarding his Protestant subjects as rebels, the St. Bartholomew might seem half justifiable to his mind; nor is it surprising that the vigorous execution of that plan of massacre should at first have been hailed throughout Catholic Europe as a masterpiece of statecraft. A few months sufficed to display the precipitancy of this judgment; the royal troops, so valiant against defenceless sleepers, failed disgracefully before La Rochelle; and the King saw himself once more obliged to tolerate heresy and disaffection by a solemn treaty. It is at this period that M. Michelet’s history opens, and at the very commencement he is enabled to present his readers with a striking and sinister tableau. Racked with remorse, worn out with dissipation, Charles was at that time rapidly approaching the tomb. His eyes were fully opened to the misery of his situation, and to the greater misery of its being too late to repair it. He perceived that the blood of thirty thousand of his subjects, which would have been gladly shed for him, had been shed by him for the Duke of Guise. He experienced the additional agony of knowing that, in the first moments of insane triumph, he had industriously claimed the whole glory of the massacre, and that the assertion had met with a credit not likely to be affected by the mere circumstance of the glory having become an infamy. To this hour, far too large a share of odium popularly clings to the memory of this most unhappy prince; and his character is so peculiar, his vices so patent to every eye, his redeeming qualities so hard to appreciate or define, that it may be very long before he finds an historian to rehabilitate his decried reputation. This has certainly been performed to some extent by an eminent French writer, but he is only a novelist. Yet the power of psychological anatomy is a more valuable gift to the historian than any amount of rhetoric, and, without

any desire to depreciate M. Michelet, we cannot but think that the sketch of Charles's character which M. de Balzac has introduced into one of his fictions, is in every way more reliable, as it certainly is more penetrating and philosophical.

While, however, Charles languished and his kingdom bled at every pore, there was one person at the height of exultation and mischievous activity. This was the Queen Mother. Accustomed to conceive of Catherine de' Medici as an abstraction of pure intellectual wickedness, subtle and concentrated as the most sugary of Borgia's powders, we find it a relief to meet with so much of the weakness of ordinary humanity as would appear from these pages to have entered into her composition. As is often the case, her just scorn for the superstitions of the vulgar had never prevented her lending a ready ear to astrologers and necromancers, and the success of the St. Bartholomew had made her sagacious brain a perfect palace of chimeras. The kingdom was indeed on fire, but—

"The Witch beheld it not, for in her hand
She held a weed that dimmed the burning brand."

It was brooded with the most extravagant visions, the most fantastic conceits. She fancied that her son was now at length the absolute master of France, and that France would speedily be absolute mistress of Europe. She had made her second son King of Poland, and expected to obtain, through his means, twenty millions annually from the most refractory nation in the world. She saw in imagination her youngest birth—the worthless Alençon—upon the throne of England; he was to marry Elizabeth, or murder her to marry the Queen of Scots, as circumstances might seem to render it most expedient. When obliged to confess that this scheme was a chimera, she started a fresh intrigue to place the same hopeful scion upon the throne of Flanders; it was true that this would involve a war with Spain, but had not the most infallible of astrologers declared that all her sons should be kings? All this in the midst of the utmost financial distress, which moved her no more than his actual tatters affect the alchemist expecting the philosopher's stone from hour to hour. She had, indeed, her expedients, of which a sample may serve. Hearing that the Emperor of Morocco had twenty millions, she immediately despatched an agent to borrow two of them!

Charles IX. died in May, 1574. His death was almost as great a calamity to his subjects as his life had been. Had he survived, there is every reason to believe that Catherine would have been sent to her favourite son in Poland, and an entirely new course of policy been adopted. Henry III. fled from his impracticable Polish subjects as from a den of thieves, compensated for this precipitancy by the tardiness with which he loitered through the rest of Europe, and arrived in France in a condition of body and mind in which it was difficult indeed to discover any trace of the victor of Jarnac and Moncontour. The part of *Le roi fainéant* being so admirably filled, that of *Le Maire du Palais* was not long without a representative. Henry, Duke of Guise, a man of valour, capacity, insatiable ambition, had but to speak, and the League started into life. This formidable body pretended to be nothing more than an association of Catholics for the extermination of heresy; but the end includes the means, and

it was soon discovered that nothing could be more conducive to that end than the substitution of Henry of Guise for Henry of Valois on the throne of France. As, however, the loyalty of the Guises would not permit them to join in deposing the King without giving him one more chance to approve himself worthy of his station, he was affectionately exhorted to demonstrate his fitness for rule by the extermination of the remains of his Protestant subjects, now made by stern necessity the faithful among the faithless. Henry submitted with a heavy heart, and perhaps not even the Protestants were more rejoiced than he when his splendid army was utterly dispersed at Coutras by the King of Navarre. But the League knew how to make this event useful to their projects. The corollary they deduced from the Coutras disaster was that the anti-heretical crusade needed to be carried on with more vigour, for which reason, meeting at Nancy, they demanded conditions from the King amounting to an entire surrender of his person and authority into their hands. Whether he accepted or refused, his deposition appeared equally certain. Such were the results of the vaunted policy of Catherine de' Medici. Instead of playing off two dangerous parties against each other, she had destroyed one to make the other irresistible.

The King determined to resist. He was in his capital; he thought himself secure for the time. A few days passed, and Guise rode into the city with half-a-dozen horsemen. The people, who had expected to see him at the head of a hostile army, flocked around him with applause, covered him with flowers, hailed him the father of his country. He went first to the Queen Mother, then to the King. The latter was with two Italians, a colonel and an abbé. The soldier offered his poniard; the priest read from his breviary, "Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." The advice was not taken; next day Paris was covered with barricades; three days later Henry was a fugitive, and Guise the virtual ruler of France. "Poor Duke!" exclaimed Sextus, when he first heard of Guise's imprudence; but when he learned that he had left the palace unharmed, he changed the exclamation to "Poor Prince!"

Had Guise at this moment intrepidly placed the crown upon his head, there is no saying whether it might not have remained there; but he was, after all, more of an Italian than a Frenchman. He plotted, temporised, and seemed to have attained his end when the King consented to confer with him at Blois, under stipulations which appeared to put both him and Catherine at the mercy of their rebellious subject. Henry, however, was himself plotting dangerously; and one morning, as Guise was raising a curtain in act to step into the royal presence, he was struck in the throat by a dagger, and fell pierced with forty-five wounds. Catherine died a few weeks afterwards—inconsolable, it was thought, that this crowning piece of policy had been executed without her participation.

The death of "the King of Paris" compelled each party to take up a more decided position. Both threw away the scabbard. From every pulpit in Paris Henry of Valois was denounced as a tyrant, a heretic, a sorcerer, and an assassin. Multitudes traversed the streets with lighted tapers, which at a signal they threw upon the ground and trampled out, imprecating a similar doom

upon the house of their King. A junta of sixteen controlled these orgies, and massacred every one who was suspected of disapproving them. Paris was a pandemonium of fanaticism, blood, and plunder. On the other hand, Henry of France threw himself into the arms of Henry of Navarre, and acknowledged the latter as the rightful heir to his crown. The League was compelled to meet this move by calling in the Spaniard, who had long looked upon France as his quarry, and to whose sole advantage the fratricidal strife seemed about to terminate, when the question was simplified in a wonderful manner by the assassination of Henry III. by the fanatic monk, Jacques Clement. Great was the error of the League if they were indeed the real wielders of this poor enthusiast's knife. The death of Henry of Valois left Henry of Navarre sole representative of the loyal party, and the nation was now free to choose between the most French of all Frenchmen and the gouty timidity of the Cardinal de Bourbon, or the indolent good-nature of the corpulent Mayenne—a conspirator in his own despite, if there ever was one. The League could not but be sensible of their ridiculous inferiority in point of personal merit, but it may be doubted whether they greatly mended their position by their voluntary tender of vassalage to Philip of Spain—the spectre and scarecrow of every Frenchman who retained the slightest spark of patriotism, or the least memory of the glories won before France was a house divided against itself. Henry the Fourth's success may be attributed to the rapid change of public opinion in his favour, at least as much as to his own brilliant valour and military skill. He was, in fact, the man of the age. No one better deserves a niche in Mr. Emerson's gallery of representative men, embodying and carrying to the highest point, as he did, the gaiety, the frivolity, the intrepidity, the thoughtlessness, the inconsistency, the gallantry, the generosity, and the moral scepticism that make up the character of the ideal Frenchman. Add to this that he was the most plausible of mankind, and that his success opened up a certain prospect of tranquillity, and the rapidity with which he gained all hearts will cease to appear marvellous. The battle of Ivry, so renowned in the spirit-stirring verse of Macaulay, made him absolute master of the field, and he advanced to the siege of Paris with a gay comparison of himself to one wooing an unwilling mistress. It may be feared that his attentions proved at first not a little inconvenient to their object; at least, people do not usually relish a canine and feline diet, to which Henry speedily reduced the population of his metropolis. The Spanish ambassador threw showers of copper coins from his windows, but these proving indigestible, called in the Prince of Parma with his army from the Low Countries. Twice did this consummate general relieve Paris, but he could do no more. Thirty years of misgovernment had even then rendered the might of Spain like one of the show-suits of armour at the Tower—a mirror of polish, sumptuous with "damask-work and deep inlay," but without any one to wear it. The sinews of war were cut, and the expeditions that should have changed the face of Europe dwindled into splendid military promenades, honourable to no one but the cold, keen, stiletto-like Prince of Parma. He died in Flanders, and was scarcely in the tomb ere Henry was in Paris, watching the Spanish caballeros defile before him, which they did

with a double portion of the stateliness peculiar to their noble nation. Nothing more remained to compass but his reconciliation with the Church of Rome, which solemn farce having been duly gone through, the chiefs of the League made their submission one by one, the Spanish sword returned to its sheath, the Spanish Catholicism to its pouch, and Philip II. subscribed a treaty by which he virtually acknowledged the failure of his efforts after universal empire, and set the final seal to one of the great epochs of continental history.

Such is a brief outline of the events that fall within the scope of M. Michelet's book. His most remarkable peculiarities, after his very original manner of narration, are his systematic depreciation of the boasted political abilities of Catherine de' Medici, and his emphatic denial that the League did at any time in any way represent the mind of France. With regard to the first of these opinions, we think he has made it pretty clear that Catherine's imagination was at times too strong for her judgment, but certainly not that she was devoid of the latter attribute. Without doubt her policy displayed great short-sightedness, but this is too frequent a companion of refined cunning to call for any especial remark. We cannot refuse to believe that the League at one time represented the mass of French public opinion, but willingly allow that the madness was a very short one. Had it been longer, perhaps the reaction would have been more decided, and France might not be still hesitating between the rival systems of the civil and religious freedom to which England owes her wealth and power, and the political and spiritual despotism which has reduced magnanimous Spain to her present condition of decrepit debility, and made the Eden of Italy the plague-spot of Europe.

A Cyclopædia of the Physical Sciences. By J. P. Nichol, LL.D. Griffin & Co.

Of the rapid progress and vast extension of physical science since the commencement of the present century, a review has been lately given in the masterly dissertation by Professor J. D. Forbes, prefixed to the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. The reports presented at various times to the British Association, and the systematic treatises that have been published in different departments of science, have also embodied a vast amount of new and important information. To translate the results of recent researches from the form of experimental record and historical narrative to that of didactic statement, incorporating the newest discoveries with the received facts of physical science, is the object of Professor Nichol's *Cyclopædia*. There is no English work of the kind containing in a moderate compass a larger amount of information in a form available for easy reference. With the latter object, the alphabetical arrangement of a dictionary is adopted, though it is obvious that this plan has disadvantages, in the incomplete and irregular treatment of many subjects which the student ought to have before him at one view. The inconvenience is, however, obviated as far as practicable by distinct references from article to article. With the aid of these directions, there are few points of importance in the range of the physical sciences which are not discussed in this compact and comprehensive treatise. On special subjects,

Professor Nichol has availed himself of the contributions of distinguished coadjutors, whose share in the work is duly acknowledged in a prefatory notice. Thus, Professor William Thomson, of Glasgow, has written the notice on Thermo-magnetism, a subject which in its present form is almost a creation of his genius and industry. Another colleague in the Glasgow University, Professor Macquorn Rankine, has written the articles on Heat, Electricity, Vapour, Steam Engine, and other subjects with which his name is honourably associated as a mathematician and practical engineer. To Mr. Archibald Smith has been confided the important question of the disturbing effect of the magnetism of ships on the compass; and to name only two more of these special contributions, Dr. Robinson, of Armagh, in his article on the Speculum, has given a detailed account of the inventions and processes by which the reflecting telescope has been brought to its present power; and Sir William Rowan Hamilton has contributed a series of letters, giving a lucid exposition of his method of Quaternions. These original papers give a special value to the work, in the editing of which Professor Nichol has been fortunate in securing the services of writers so eminent in their several fields of scientific research. To the best published treatises, both of America and the Continent, recourse has also been had in the compilation of many of the articles in the *Cyclopædia*.

The astronomical papers are amongst the most elaborate, as might perhaps have been expected from the interest of the subject, as well as the partiality of the editor, whose work on the *Architecture of the Heavens* has rendered good service in diffusing a taste for this grandest department of science. From that work have been transferred some of the illustrations of sidereal and nebular astronomy, and notices of the most striking revelations of the Parsonstown and other gigantic telescopes. Of the researches of Piazzi, Bessel, Argelander, Struve, and other foreign observers, who have most successfully followed Sir William Herschel in this field of discovery, an able summary is given, the style occasionally rising to an eloquence commensurate with the theme. In treating of the proper motion of the sun in space, Professor Nichol thus narrates the discovery:—

"Ascending from contemplation of the sun as an individual orb, towards the idea of his companionship with the hosts of fixed stars, the question involuntarily springs up, is that companionship manifested by common motions?—does the sun move in some vast orbit through space? a mighty question!—Sir Wm. Herschel was the first to demonstrate the existence of such a motion and to declare its direction. Observing that the fixed stars in one part of our firmament had for ages apparently been drifting away from each other, while the stars in the opposite region had been proportionally closing in, he inferred that the sun is moving from one of these regions, and towards the other; and he fixed a precise spot in the constellation Hercules, as the point whither our luminary has recently been advancing. The point on which Herschel fixed, in 1783, was in 257° of right ascension, and 25° north declination. Observe how astonishing was this veteran's sagacity! As years rolled on, better and far more numerous determinations of the apparent motions of the fixed stars were obtained. Consideration of the great problem was then resumed; and yet the new results differ but by a very small comparative amount from what Herschel determined—viewing the problem *all in the rough*. The point of direction fixed on by Otto Struve, is this:—

R. A. $250^{\circ} 04'$
N. D. $34^{\circ} 36'$

Not the direction merely, but the magnitude of this great solar motion, may now be declared. Our luminary sweeps through space, at the annual rate of *one hundred and fifty millions of miles*. But what is the nature of his path? Is it a mighty curve? If so, where its centre, what its vast radius, and what the duration of the grand SOLAR YEAR! Problems unquestionably resolvable, and for which Stellar Astronomy is slowly accumulating the adequate materials. The completion of this greatest of inquiries may not indeed be very near at hand; nevertheless, it was assuredly most fitting that to him whose unrivalled sagacity penetrated the secret of the multiple stars, tidings should first come of the *Unity*—the perfection of our majestic system; tidings that among its innumerable hosts not one is solitary or apart, but an essential element of the universal scheme, exchanging sympathies and action with all, and by its motions visibly declaring them."

Möedler, of Dorpat, has of late directed new attention to this grand subject, in presenting some remarkable speculations as to the Galactic system. According to Möedler, the star Alcyone, the principal orb in the Pleiades, is at or very near the centre of gravity of all the stellar orbs, the point round which the sun and the countless hosts of the heavens are marshalled, and perform their revolutions. He states that, as a consequence of his theory, the sun's distance from the centre of his orbit is thirty-four millions of times the radius of the orbit of the earth, and that the duration of his course is about 19,256,000 years. The recent observations made with the largest telescopes on the milky way open up important inquiries, the results of which singularly confirm the sagacious views of the elder Herschel, the founder of sidereal astronomy. One other fact connected with our system, as announced by Sir John Herschel in his great work on the Southern Skies, carries the mind to contemplations of yet wider scope. That the galaxy is comparatively a well-defined cluster of suns and systems, shallow in form laterally, as seen from this earth, while stretching indefinitely onwards in the direction of the Milky Way, is well understood by astronomers. Sir John Herschel has called attention to streams of light on the background of the sky, apparently unconnected with the Milky Way, or with any foreign cluster.

"He has specified no fewer than thirty-seven places distinguished by this strange and evanescent presence, the shadow as of some far away reality, or light blushing through darkness. The phenomenon, indeed, is so faint, that he says, 'The idea of illusion has continually arisen subsequently,' but as to its reality, it is enough to read from Sir John's note book, 'I feel satisfied the stippling is no illusion, as its dark mottling moves with the stars as I move the tube to and fro;' and more that is similar. What are these fresh intimations from beyond abysses so awful? On examining, by aid of a stellar chart, whether the patches of light could be grouped in any consistent or intelligible manner, the same astronomer found that, with the exception of three that appear outlying and disconnected, they form several distinct but continuous streams; and it seems, therefore, that as they must be held to be starry regions of great extent and excessive remoteness, we are constrained to consider them branches or arms of the system of our Milky Way, amid depths to which no adventurous conception ever penetrated before."

Among the mathematical articles, that on Quaternions is the most conspicuous, and it is almost the first time that an attempt has been made to explain this ingenious and powerful calculus, beyond the select circles of mathematicians. It would be impossible to enter here into the scientific demonstration, but as a curiosity in the history of the calculus, and

as an instance of a philosopher disporting himself with literature, the commencement of the first of the series of letters will be read with interest. It is addressed to a lady, Sir William assuring her that he had succeeded in making one of her sex, who had never opened a book on algebra or geometry in her life, with the help of illustrations on his part and patience on hers, perfectly understand the conception of the Quaternion considered geometrically. The geometrical explanation of the principle is singularly lucid and satisfactory, and the more difficult exposition of the system of double algebra will be welcomed by mathematical students, but we confine our extract to the playful prefatory remarks.

"DEAR MRS. S.—I am flattered, or at least I am gratified, by your wish to know something about the Quaternions. Really I never hold other people's buttons to talk to them on that subject; but my own button is occasionally held, especially by a learned librarian in Dublin, who stops me in the streets, and waylays me in booksellers' shops, to ask for a plain answer to a simple question,—which you have not put in *exactly* the same terms,—to wit, 'what the deuce are the Quaternions?' Well, I must try to do what I can, to satisfy your friendly curiosity.—It would be very easy for me to give a *definition* of a quaternion; I mean, of what I have so called in *mathematics*: for you know that the term itself is a good old English word. It occurs, for example, in our version of the Bible, where the apostle Peter is described as having been delivered by Herod to the charge of four *quaternions* of soldiers. In the *Paradise Lost*, Adam is represented by Milton as uttering the invocation:—

'Air, and ye Elements, the eldest birth
Of Nature's womb, that in *quaternion* run
Perpetual circle manifold, and mix
And nourish all things,—
Vary to your great Maker still new praise.'

And to take a lighter and more modern instance from the pages of *Guy Mannering*, Scott represents Sir Robert Hazlewood of Hazlewood, as loading his long sentences with 'triads and quaternions.' In all these cases, of course, the word signifies (as its etymology implies) a set of *Four* (persons, or things, or words); and on the same plan, Dr. Latham has written a paper on 'Phonetic Quaternions,' meaning thereby certain *sounds*, which he conceives to group themselves, *four by four*; and I have recently noticed the term 'QUATERNIONEN,' applied by a very able German author, Moebius, to certain things depending upon *systems of four points*. (An awkward attempt was made, two or three years ago, by one of the most eminent of the French mathematicians, to introduce into his language a corresponding term: he supposed, in defiance of all analogy, the plural to be *Quaternia*!—the Latin plural being *Quaterniones*.) In fact, the Latin word *Quaternio*, like the Greek term *τετρακτύς*, of which it is a translation, seems to mean simply (as above) a set of *four*; or the 'NUMBER FOUR,' used as a *substantive*, and not as a numerical adjective. So that, instead of saying that Pythagoras attached a mysterious and hitherto unexplained importance to the Tetractys, we might say that Pythagoras did so to the 'QUATERNION': whatever conception, precise or vague, that wonderful philosopher of antiquity may have associated with the thought of *FOUR*. (I sometimes fancy that I can conceive an unrecorded *Tetracthony* of Pythagoras, analogous to that of Kant, but more mathematically connected with the Pyramid.)—But whatever licence, or vagueness, may have heretofore existed, in the employment of the word 'Quaternion,' it would seem that the courtesy of my contemporaries, at least in these countries, has of late years established an usage,—you know Horace's "*Si volet usus, quem penes arbitrium est, et jus, et norma loquendi*,"—which for the present, almost or altogether restricts the word as a *mathematical term*, to the sense in which I have employed it. The question then arises:—'What does the Author of the Lectures on Quaternions mean by the latter word, when employed (as he employs it) in

mathematics?' And here I repeat that it would be easy for me to embody my meaning in a *Definition*, if that could be supposed to be of the slightest earthly use, to persons unacquainted with the subject. I might, for example, in all due form, lay down the following statement:—*DEFINITION*. 'A QUATERNION is the *quotient* of two vectors, or of two directed right lines in space, considered as depending on a system of *Four Geometrical Elements*; and as expressible by an algebraical symbol of *Quadri-nominal Form*.' And I might go on to add, as a sort of second *Definition* (or at least *Description*):—'The Science, or *Calculus*, of Quaternions, is a new *Mathematical Method*, wherein the foregoing conception of a quaternion is unfolded and symbolically expressed: and is applied to various classes of algebraical, geometrical, and physical questions, so as to discover [many new] theorems, and to arrive at the solution of [many difficult] problems.'—But though I believe the foregoing statements to be *correct*, and even think that they may be *useful*, as a sort of *recapitulation*, or *résumé*, for those who already know a great deal about the matter, what human being, at first starting, could be expected to be one bit the *wiser* for them? And, indeed, *what science can be defined*, so as to convey to a person who is only about to begin the study of it, anything like a clear and adequate notion of its extent, or even of its nature? 'Mais, tenter de définir une science c'est consentir à être inintelligible,' says Pouillet, in the second page of the seventh edition of his very lucid and valuable work, *Éléments de Physique Expérimentale, et de Météorologie*, into which I have been lately dipping."

Then follow the exposition and illustrations of the method, of which we only here remark that Jacobi has been lately using the calculus with singular success to the investigation of some of the most difficult problems of the planetary perturbations, and that several other continental mathematicians have borne testimony to the simplicity, power, and fertility of the method. Sir William Hamilton may therefore yet be justified in his fond anticipations that he has discovered a new instrument in the study of nature; at all events we may admire the spirit exhibited in the classical allusion with which he concludes his letters in this work, representing himself as an honourable suitor of Science, while the bow yet awaits its Ulysses.

Sépultures Gauloises, Romaines, Franques, et Normandes, faisant suite à La Normandie Souterraine. Par M. L'Abbé Cochet. Paris: Derache. London: J. H. and J. Parker.

ANOTHER volume, containing an account of the researches of this indefatigable explorer since the publication of 'La Normandie Souterraine,' combined with a review of his previous discoveries. The first chapter is devoted to a description of the Gaulish sepulchres discovered at the château of Robert the Devil, at Molyneux, near Rouen. The Abbé commences his account by observing that the fame of the said Robert, "ce personnage mystérieux et énigmatique,"—was limited until the *libretto* of M. Scribe and the music of Meyerbeer expanded it throughout the world! Tradition affords no clue to the origin of the name of this château, and the remains found in the neighbourhood must be ascribed to a period long anterior to that personage. The second chapter contains an account of Roman and Romano-Gaulish sepulchral remains of the first three centuries of our era, discovered in the valley of Etretat. Chapters III. and IV. are also devoted to a description of sepulchral remains brought to light in various localities in Normandy.

The succeeding chapters are dedicated to a recapitulation of the Abbé's researches in the Frankish cemeteries of Normandy, and here we have an abundance of curious details of the utmost value to the student of our early Anglo-Saxon antiquities. A number of objects, comprising arms, implements, utensils, personal ornaments, &c., have rewarded M. Cochet's labours, and are minutely described by him, and compared with objects of a similar character discovered in England. But the most novel section of the work is consecrated to a description of sepulchral usages in Christian times. It appears to have been a practice in this country, as well as in France, to place on the breast of the defunct a leaden cross, inscribed with a religious sentence; but the crosses which have been brought to light in Normandy are remarkable for their bearing a form of absolution. Here is one of these forms, transcribed *verbatim et literatim*:—

"Dominus Ihesus Christus qui dixit discipulis suis quodcumque ligaveritis super terram erit ligatum et in celis et quodcumque solveritis super terram erit solutum et in celis ipse te absolvat Johannes (or Johanna?) ab omnibus criminibus tuis per ministerium nostrum quaecumque cogitatione loquutione operatione neglegenter egisti atque nexibus absolutum perducere dignetur ad regna celorum: qui vivit et regnat Deus per omnia secula seculorum. Amen."

Several of these crosses, bearing analogous inscriptions, are figured in this volume. An account of those discovered by M. Cochet, in the ruined cemetery of Bouteilles, was communicated by him to the Society of Antiquaries in the past session, and may be seen in their recently published volume of the 'Archæologia.' By far the most interesting and novel portion of this volume is, however, devoted to the description of remains of the Christian period, which have hitherto escaped the notice, or have been but inattentively observed by continental archæologists. The Ritualists, Durandus and Belet, in their directions for the burial of the dead, enjoin the deposit in the tomb of vessels of holy water, and earthen pots containing charcoal. The latter, the charcoal being kindled, served the purpose of a censer, in which perfumes were burnt during the obsequies of the defunct. Several of these pots are engraved, and exhibit a striking similarity of form. They are rudely made, and appear not to have been originally designed for sepulchral uses, but adapted to the purpose to which they have been applied by holes made in their sides. M. Cochet has proved, incontestably, the practice of thus depositing in Christian tombs both incense and holy water, from the eleventh to the seventeenth century, and the manner in which the former was used is most appropriately illustrated by an engraving taken from a manuscript of the fourteenth century, in which several ecclesiastics are represented performing the service for the dead, while three pots, of the character described, are placed on the ground between the priests and the mourners. This is a most opportune discovery, and a most happy illustration of the use of these incense pots; and we congratulate the learned and indefatigable archæologist upon the novel light which he has thrown upon the subject. We cordially recommend his volume, the price of which places it within the reach of every one devoted to antiquarian research, and we have no doubt it will find many readers in this country.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Works of Francis Bacon. Collected and Edited by James Spedding, M.A., R. Leslie Ellis, M.A., and Douglas D. Heath. Vol. 3. Longman and Co.

The Metaphysicians; being a Memoir of Franz Carvel, Brushmaker, written by himself, and of Harold Fremdling, Esq. Written and now re-published by Francis Drake, Esq. Longman and Co.

Principles of Natural Theology. By Robert Anchor Thompson, M.A. Rivingtons.

An Elementary English Grammar. By the Viscount Downe. Longman and Co.

Glimpses of our Island Home. By Mrs. Thomas Geldart. Norwich: Fletcher and Alexander.

The Balance of Beauty; or, the Lost Image Restored. By Jane Kennedy. W. Kent and Co.

The Adventures of a Cat. By Alfred Elwes. Addey and Co.

The Epistles of Ovidius Naso, converted into a New Measure of English Verse. By John Jump. Bell and Daldy.

A Twine of Way-side Ivy; or, Three Tales from an Old Woman's Note-Book. By Margaret Casson. John Moxon.

VOLUME the Third of the Works of Lord Bacon, edited by Messrs. Spedding and Ellis, contains miscellaneous philosophical pieces, grouped under two heads—Works on subjects connected with the 'Instauratio Magna,' but not meant to be included in it; and Works originally designed for parts of the 'Instauratio Magna,' but superseded or abandoned. Among the former is the philosophical romance of 'The New Atlantis,' of which Mr. Spedding says, that "had it proceeded to the end in a manner worthy of the beginning, it would have stood, as a work of art, among the most perfect compositions of its kind." In the second group of treatises are the Two Books on the Advancement of Learning, which Lord Campbell considers "the most captivating" of the philosophical works of Bacon to beginners, as in it "while he instructs he charms his reader with a felicity of illustration peculiar to himself, ever seconded by the commanding powers of a bold and figurative eloquence." "No one," says Lord Campbell, "is so absurd as to suppose that Bacon was the first to render experience available in the search after truth; but he it was who first systematically showed the true object of philosophical inquiry, and the true means by which that object was to be attained. His works made a deep impression on the public mind of Europe, which has never been effaced; and to their direct and indirect influence may be ascribed many of the brilliant discoveries which illustrated the latter half of the seventeenth century." In these remarks Lord Campbell echoes the opinions of his own countrymen, Dugald Stewart, Robison, and Playfair, who were the commentators of Bacon at a period when his writings were almost neglected at the English universities. It is otherwise since the revival of science during the present century, and full justice has been done to Bacon by Whewell, Herschel, and others who have written on the history of modern philosophy. Among the Latin treatises in this volume, that entitled *Cogitata et Visa de Interpretatione Naturæ* is the loftiest in style and matter, being apparently a rough draught of part of the first book of the 'Novum Organum,' before that work was thrown into the form of Aphorisms. Most of the miscellaneous philosophical works were published by Gruter in 1653. The manner in which these manuscripts came to be first issued from the Elzevir press at Amsterdam we have related in noticing the previous volume.

The author of *The Metaphysicians* has ingeniously contrived to discuss some of the most important topics of speculative philosophy, morals, and social progress, in the form of biographical romance. In the memoirs of Franz Carvel, brush-maker, written by himself, and of Harold Fremdling, Esquire, the reader is introduced to many remarkable scenes and experiences of life, the descriptive and narrative portions of the work serving as the medium for conveying the metaphysical speculations and practical suggestions. It would require the genius of Bishop Berkeley or the taste of Addison to sustain perfectly a philosophical work on such a plan, and it is not surprising that shortcomings in the execution should be manifest. But notwithstanding these, there is much to interest the philosophical student, and the style and story of the autobiographies are attractive. In the

memoir of Franz Carvel, the chapter headed *The Past* so called, in which we are carried by a pleasant reverie back to the middle of last century, yet with strange adhesion of present associations, the author introduces scenes and incidents interesting to the literary as well as the metaphysical reader. The book is not one of which an account of the contents can be fairly given in a brief notice, and we therefore merely commend it as likely to afford an agreeable diversion from the study of more formal treatises of philosophy and ethics.

In the *Principles of Natural Theology*, by Robert Anchor Thompson, M.A., author of the *Burnett Prize Treatise on Christian Theism*, an inquiry is prosecuted as to the origin of our knowledge of the being and attributes of the Deity. The chief theories of atheism, and the objections to the theism of Revelation, were discussed in Mr. Thompson's former work, the present essay being confined to the positive argument. Without entering upon any statement of the elaborate and systematic train of propositions and arguments, we may give, as one conclusion of the author, that "our knowledge of the Deity is not dependent upon proof, but is given by the Author of our being, in the facts of nature, and in the principles and conditions of our intellectual life. It is therefore rightly held by men, who can give no account of it. Like our other intuitions, it may be verified by reflection, but is not dependent upon the verification, and cannot be doubted without the suicide of reason." Mr. Thompson has previously denied that the idea is innate or natural to man, but asserts that it arises in the mind, under the teaching of nature. This growth of an idea is not intuitive, in the proper sense of that term, and rather may be said to be dependent on proof, though of a natural and unsystematic kind, instead of being the result of philosophical demonstration. It is the absence of the latter in producing the universal idea of theism, that can alone justify Mr. Thompson in pronouncing it intuitive and yet not innate. The intellectual ability and right feeling of the author will be respected even by those who are not satisfied by his arguments.

At this time of day, and after the multitude of labourers in the field, it may seem strange to assert that it is not easy to point to an English Grammar which one can put into the hands of children, as at once simple and satisfactory. In Lindley Murray there are plain rules, and in Cobbett masculine sense and forcible illustrations, but it is desirable to have also information on points which the common school text-books leave unnoticed. The Rev. T. K. Arnold's Grammar and that of Dr. Latham are excellent books for more advanced pupils, but do not meet the desideratum in elementary teaching. Lord Downe having experienced this difficulty in obtaining an easy grammar for his own children, as well as for some village schools in which he takes interest, corresponded on the subject with Professor Sullivan, and on his suggestion has prepared a Grammar, which on the special ground it seeks to occupy is certainly an improvement on any now in use. Besides the common principles and rules that are given in all school books of the kind, both in this country and in America, Lord Downe presents in a simple and popular form the most important results of the researches of philologists and ethnologists, as well as of professional grammarians, in elucidating the English language. To the works of Arnold, Hare, and Trench, the writer acknowledges his obligations, and he proves himself a worthy follower in the same service of striving to diffuse a knowledge of the power and beauties of our English tongue, of which Jacob Grimm says that "in wealth, good sense, and closeness of structure, no other of the languages at this day spoken deserves to be compared with it." With Archdeacon Hare, Lord Downe takes the English version of the New Testament as "the standard of the language in its highest purity and majesty." The variations of words and of construction in the epochs of Shakespeare, Milton, and Addison are pointed out, and frequent passages are cited from writers of authority to illustrate peculiarities of diction or of grammar. In the compass of a hundred and fifty pages the

author has managed to compress a large amount of useful matter, and though the work is in several points open to criticism, a more suitable elementary grammar on the whole cannot be placed in the hands of young pupils. On the use of the auxiliary verbs, and especially *shall* and *will*, the remarks are good, but more adapted for teachers than for children, to whom some more explicit rules as to the practice in our own day might have been given. Some incidental errata we have noted; as when it is said that nouns "ending in *f* and *fe*, make the plural in *es*, but in compounds the usual form is followed." This is true of staffs, staves, and flagstaff, flag-staffs; but not of wife and housewife. The expression, "I cannot but wonder," is interpreted "I can only wonder;" it ought to be, "I cannot be without wonder," the latter statement not excluding other frames of mind.

Mrs. Thomas Geldart, an experienced writer of books of juvenile instruction, has presented in *Glimpses of our Island Home* information on points not usually receiving prominence in school books of English history. The records of the ancient Saxon chroniclers, the black letter annals of Holingshed and Stowe, the learned researches of Sharon Turner, Dr. Lingard, or Mr. Kemble, with the monumental explorations of antiquaries, are little known to the majority of students of British history, and few attempts have been made to bring such information within the reach of the young. Mrs. Geldart's book gives an account of the condition of the Island in old British times, in the Roman era, and in the days of the Saxons and Danes, down to the Norman conquest, the domestic and social life of the people and the internal state of the country being described rather than its external and political annals. The facts are drawn from the best authorities, and the style is attractive, so that the work may be recommended as likely to prove an entertaining as well as instructive reading book.

The Balance of Beauty is one of those tales in which an attempt is made to present ecclesiastical polemics in the shape of a domestic romance. Of the class of books it is a favourable example, and various points of doctrine and of practice are described and discussed in a charitable spirit; but to the mingling of religion with fiction, except in rare cases, we have often expressed our aversion. Both are apt to be marred, except in the hands of writers with rare combinations of genius and of judgment.

Youthful readers will be amused by the story of the *Adventures of a Cat*, as related by Alfred Elwes, author of *Adventures of a Bear*, and other books of the class. There is sometimes too much straining after liveliness and smartness of writing, where plain narrative would have been more effective and humorous, but the book is not meant to fall into the hands of critical readers. The illustrations by Harrison Weir contribute materially to the attractions of the volume for the young.

John Jump's metrical version of *Select Epistles from Ovid* is a very lame and unsatisfactory attempt. The author thinks it a pity that classical writings on subjects of universal interest should be confined to the narrow circles of academic readers; and in order that the dwellers beside the Liffey and the Thames may share the enjoyments of those on the banks of the Cam and the Isis, Mr. Jump translates the Ovidian verses into stanzas such as the following:—

"Did Theseus stop that Paris might achieve,
Lest flame intact remain?
This chafes me not, for love none misconceives;
But do you love, or feign?
"That is the question: not for me lack faith,
Or of our value doubt,
But that to girls credulity is seethe,
And truth you are said without."

There are two hundred and eighteen pages of stanzas of this metre, and rarely of greater literary merit than the foregoing specimen. Mr. Jump deserves the critical birch; but as his book will probably be little known, his offences will not cause much public scandal, and his sentence may be commuted into banishment to the waste-paper basket.

A Twine of Way-side Ivy is the title given to

three tales from an old woman's note-book, by Margaret Casson—The Haunted Well, Evelyn Shirley's Two Balls, and Constance Vere. They are pleasantly told tales, and to many their brevity will be a recommendation, three stories being compressed into one volume, in place of one story being spun out into three volumes, as often is done by writers with less materials than the present writer makes use of.

Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Vol. II., Part 1. Edinburgh: Printed for the Society.
Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London. No. 7. E. Stanford.

Journal of the Statistical Society of London. Vol. XX., Part 1. John W. Parker and Son.
Economic Cause of Slavery in the United States, &c. By a South Carolinian. R. Hardwicke.

The Social and Political Relations of Drunkenness. By Thomas Laycock, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: M. Macphail.

Tales and Queries for Naturalists. No. 1. Groombridge and Sons.

In Part First of Volume Second of the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, appear several papers of literary and historical as well as local or mere archaeological interest. A letter from Mr. David Laing on the present state of the ruins of Iona, with suggestions for their preservation, discusses a subject which has of late engaged the attention of the Scottish antiquaries, not before there was need for some interference and appeal in behalf of the historical monuments of that remarkable island. Through the exertions of the Society, and of the Iona Club, with the sanction of the present liberal Duke of Argyll, there is prospect of this matter being at length rightly attended to. Notices of ancient Gaelic poems and historical fragments in a manuscript volume, written in the years 1512 to 1529, called 'The Dean of Lismore's Book,' in the Advocates' Library, are communicated by the Rev. Thomas MacLachlan, Gaelic minister at Edinburgh. This volume was presented some years ago to the Highland Society of Scotland, by John Mackenzie, Esq., of the Temple, Barrister-at-law, one of the executors of Mr. Macpherson, the translator of Ossian, and under whose editorial care Macpherson's work was published. Many of the passages in Ossian are literal translations of ancient Gaelic poetry recorded in this manuscript of the sixteenth century, which also contains various Ossianic fragments of which Macpherson did not make use. It is a book of great value, as the only authentic miscellany of old Gaelic poetry known to exist. The book is a small quarto of 311 pages, the paper much stained, and in a dilapidated state, requiring some steps to be taken immediately for its preservation—a suggestion of the author of the paper which we cordially echo. These authentic literary relics may supply some valuable materials of Celtic history and philology. An analysis and detailed list of the contents of the book are given, the number of separate poems, many of them short pieces, being three hundred and seven. Another interesting though less important paper is a communication, by Mr. Robert Chambers, on a box presented by Alexander Pope, the poet, to his supposed relation, the Rev. Alexander Pope, minister of Reay in Caithnesshire. Mr. Chambers, in his Life of Pope, mentions the gift of the Odyssey in five volumes quarto, which the poet presented to his namesake at Twickenham in 1732, when the north country parson rode all the way from Caithness to see him. The biographers do not seem to have been aware that the poet gave him at the same time a handsome snuff-box, now in the possession of his daughter's son, James Campbell, Esq., Assistant-Commissioner-General, now residing in Edinburgh. The box, which was exhibited at a meeting of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, is silver gilt, of an elegant form, with a Watteau-like scene ornamenting the lid, and an inscription commemorating the gift to the present possessor's maternal grandfather. The original note that accompanied the box has been lost within the memory of some of the family, who had often seen it. Mr. Chambers concludes his paper with some genealogical statements and speculations, remarking that it is quite probable that Pope's grandfather, the father of the

Lombard-street linedraper, was a Scotchman from Caithnesshire. A clan of the name was numerous in the north of Scotland in the middle of the sixteenth century.

The seventh number of the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society contains abstracts of some of the most interesting papers that have been read before the Society during the early part of the present session, including the proceedings at the special meeting in December, when Dr. Livingstone was welcomed on his return from his African explorations. The speeches of Sir Roderick Murchison; Sir Henry Rawlinson; Mr. Consul Brand, of Loando; the Count de Lavradio, the Portuguese Minister; and Dr. Livingstone, are fully reported. Mr. Brand presented to the meeting a newspaper published at the Government press at Loando, 'The Loando Aurora,' to which Dr. Livingstone had contributed a series of articles descriptive of his travels. Among the articles in the present number of the Proceedings are the following:—On the Exploration of the River Oronoco, by Rear-Admiral Elliot, late Governor of Trinidad; On the Proposed Communication through North America from Vancouver's Island to Hudson Bay, by Thomas Banister, Esq.; Notes on Burmah, by Captain Yule, of the Bengal Engineers; On Dr. Livingstone's Astronomical Observations, by R. Maclear, Esq., Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape; Narrative of a Journey across the Luen-luen Mountains, from Ladak to Khotan, by the Brothers Schlagintweit, communicated by Colonel Sykes; and other papers of value, with the discussions in the Society that took place when they were read. Notices of these communications have already appeared in our columns, under the head of reports of the Proceedings of the Learned Societies.

The March number of the Journal of the Statistical Society of London contains several papers of more than usual public interest. First, there is a paper, read by Mr. Danson before the British Association at Cheltenham last August, on the existing Connexion between American Slavery and the British Cotton Manufacture. Next comes a paper by the Rev. Mr. Clay, Chaplain to the Preston House of Correction, on the relation between Crime, Popular Instruction, Attendance on Religious Worship, and Beer-houses. Whatever amount of assent may be given to Mr. Clay's conclusions, the views of an observer of so much experience and practical philanthropy deserve respectful consideration. A paper by Miss Carpenter of Bristol, on Female Reformatories, was also read at Cheltenham. Dr. Guy's report on the Duration of Life among Lawyers, with remarks on the comparative longevity of the three learned professions; Mr. R. Thompson Jopling's report on the Mortality among Officers of the British Army in the Crimea; and Mr. Everest's paper on the Proportion of Foreigners to Natives, and of Foreign and Native Convicts, in several states of Europe and America, are important contributions on special subjects. But the article that will attract most attention at the present time is by Sir John Bowring, on the Population of the Chinese Empire, a paper drawn up a year ago, in reply to inquiries addressed to him by the English Registrar-General. Sir John Bowring gives statistics on the subject as far as they could be obtained, but to a large extent the numbers are only approximate estimates. It is forty-three years since a general census of the empire was taken, under the authority of Hienfung, the grandfather of the present emperor. Sir John Bowring is of opinion, from his knowledge of certain definite districts, that the estimates of population usually given as to the whole empire are not overrated, and in this he is confirmed by the testimony of Mr. S. W. Williams, one of the Christian missionaries who have been longest in the country. The census of 1792, as reported by Lord Macartney, gave the population as 333,000,000; that of 1812 as 362,447,183. It is not known what effect may have been produced in some provinces of the interior by the civil war that has for several years been raging, but in the parts accessible to Europeans the population appears to have continued to increase

rapidly during the last two reigns. Emigration has also increased, however, and the population now probably is not far from 400,000,000. Some remarkable notices of social life and usages in China occur in Sir John Bowring's valuable paper.

The South Carolinian's plea for Slavery, under colour of a philosophical exposition of its economical causes, will make little impression on any one not directly interested in the maintenance of the nefarious system. It is an appeal to the selfishness and covetousness of man, apart from every generous feeling or religious principle. The spirit of the writer is apparent from the assertion that the abolitionists "do not desire happiness for the negro, but trouble for the negro's master." The cry for emancipation, he says, is merely used as a stalking-horse for acquiring popularity and power. That the negroes are far better off as slaves than as free labourers, is a position which we might expect a South Carolinian to maintain; but when he asserts that their emancipation would of necessity imply scenes of bloodshed and violence, Englishmen can point with satisfaction to the peaceful behaviour of the emancipated negroes in the West Indies on their sudden release from bondage. If it be answered that the West India negroes had been prepared for emancipation, this stands as a rebuke to the American planters, who prevent the labours of missionaries and teachers, and thereby retain their slaves in a condition which will make the retribution more terrible when a time of trouble or insurrection comes. The best friends of the Americans advise them to be now preparing for the removal of a system which must sooner or later cease, either by peaceful means or by violence such as humanity shudders to contemplate.

Dr. Laycock's two lectures on the Social and Political Relations of Drunkenness caused no little public excitement at Edinburgh, where they were delivered in the month of January this year, as the readers of the newspapers of the time may have observed. The controversies that arose out of the allusions to Scottish intemperance, and the working of the Forbes Mackenzie Act, and the disturbances between the students of the college and the mob of the town, were local and incidental results of the lectures; but the subjects discussed in them are of wider and more enduring importance. Against some of Dr. Laycock's views there may be room for protest, but the facts, social and political as well as medical and physiological, presented in these lectures deserve the consideration of the public authorities and of private philanthropists.

When the proposal was issued for establishing a journal of Notes and Queries for Naturalists, while feeling interest in the object of the publication, we expressed a doubt whether the work was undertaken under auspices likely to command success. The appearance of the first number has confirmed this doubt. If an editor of scientific note were announced as having charge of the publication, or if the names of any contributors were known among naturalists, there might be prospect of support, but there is no encouragement to expect much under present arrangements. In the ordinary journals and magazines of natural history, a separate department, headed Notes and Queries, would elicit all the minor and miscellaneous communications which the projectors of this work hope to attract to a separate periodical. However, the design being praiseworthy, and the spirit in which the attempt is made being good, we should be glad to be found wrong in our prognostication. The materials for such a work are ample, but a larger co-operation and support from naturalists and lovers of nature would be required than is likely to be given to this publication.

List of New Books.

- Allison's Continuation. Vol. VI. 8vo, cloth, 15s.
Bell's (R.) English Poets, Vol. XXX., fcap., cloth, 2s. 6d.
Blackstone's Commentaries, by R. M. Kerr, 4 vols. 8vo, cl., £2 2s.
Butler's (A.) Sermons, 2nd series, 2nd edit., cloth, 10s. 6d.
— (G.) Village Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
Child's (A.P.) British Botanist's Field-Book, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Christie Johnston, by C. Roade, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Cooper's (J.) New Zealand Settler's Guide, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Davies's (R.) Suggestive Hints, 7th edit., 12mo, cloth, 2s. 3d.
Folied (The) Lamb, new edit., 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Hall's (C. R.) Torquay, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Hamilton's (J.) Lamp, &c., 4th edit., 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.

Hancock's (S.) *Rainbow around the Throne*, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Hazlitt's (W.) *Oliver Cromwell*, 12mo, cloth, 1s.
 Lances of Lynwood, square, cloth, new edition, 3s.
 Metaphysicians (The), post 8vo, cloth, 8s.
 Miller's (W. A.) *Chemistry*, Part III., 8vo, cl., 2l.; 3 vols., 22 6s. 6d.
 Mill's (R. H.) *Principles of Currency*, 2nd edit., 8vo, cl., 3s. 6d.
 Morse's (F.) *Working for God*, crown 8vo, sewed, 2s. 6d.
 Nichol's *Practical Sermons*, Vol. 1., 3rd edit., 6s.
 Nottingham's (J.) *Diseases of the Ear*, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
 ParLOUR Library, Vol. CLIX., 12mo, boards, 1s. 6d.
 Penitential (A.), 12mo, cloth, 3s.
 Peripatetic Papers, 8vo, cl., edited by J. M. Gilchrist, 7s. 6d.
 Railway Library, Vol. CXXXVI., 1s. 6d.
 Reid's (M.) *Rifle Rangers*, crown 8vo, 4s.
 — (W.) *Streams from Lebanon*, 1mo, cloth, 4s.
 Riddle's (J. E.) *Household Prayers*, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Ritchie's (L.) *New Shilling*, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 — *Wear Foot Common*, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Scripture Text-Book, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Sinner's (P.) *Grandmother Katie*, square, sewed, 1s.
 Snowden's *Magistrate's Assistant*, by J. F. Archbold, 12mo, cl., 10s.
 Talier's *Consulate*, 8vo, sewed, Vol. XIV., 5s.
 Thompson's (R. A.) *Natural Theology*, crown 8vo, cl., 4s.
 Thoughts for the Holy Week, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
 Toddhunter's (J.) *Integral Calculus*, post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
 Weibrecht's (J. J.) *Sermons*, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 — *Memor.*, 7th edit., 7s. 6d.
 Wellford's (G.) *Memorial Window*, crown 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 White's *Selborne*, new edit., 12mo, cloth, 3s.

ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND.

WE hoped that the discussion of the concerns of this Society was at an end for one year at least. It was not to be expected, of course, that the report, by its assailants, of the proceedings of the last meeting should be more accurate, or their comments more fair than in former years. Their authorised organ, the *Athenæum*, hears with ears and sees with spectacles peculiar to itself. But to refute inaccuracies which were known to be such by the large number of members who attended the meeting, and which indeed are manifestly such, even upon that journal's own garbled statements, is quite superfluous. The thirty agitators of last year have dwindled to eleven this year; yet, says our contemporary, "the reformers are conquering ground." Even so did the French conquer ground at Waterloo. "The officers of the Society freed themselves from censure by means of their own votes," says the same veracious chronicler, only about fifteen or sixteen of the officials having voted out of a total of sixty-eight! We should not have been provoked by these and similar misrepresentations to have returned to the subject, had not the same article contained a series of misstatements in regard to Mrs. Haydn's case, brought forward with the purpose of discrediting the officials of the Fund, and thereby bolstering up the desperate cause of the discomfited reformers. Knowing the statements of our contemporary to be untrue in regard to these gentlemen, as they unquestionably were, in one important particular, in regard to ourselves, we have made a full inquiry, and, in duty to the Institution and the individuals so wantonly assailed, we shall lay the facts before the public, leaving them to judge what confidence is to be placed in the prudence or judgment of gentlemen who can lend themselves to such reckless looseness of statement, not to call it by that harsher dissyllable for which Mr. Forster has so marked a preference. If we violate the rule of secrecy observed by the Fund, the fault lies with Mrs. Haydn and her injudicious friends. They have chosen to assail the Fund, and to state as facts what are not facts, and they must take the consequences. Where silence, as in this case, might injure the interests of the Society, by leaving on the minds of its subscribers the injurious impression which such misstatements are calculated to produce, its officers are, in our opinion, bound to show that they have discharged their trust, and that their operations for the relief of literary men are precisely of that nature which their adversaries say they should be, but are not. The statement in last week's *Athenæum* in regard to Mrs. Haydn's case is this:—

"The *Athenæum* had drawn attention to the case of Mrs. Haydn, as illustrating the 'delicacy' with which the business of the Society is conducted. It had said:—

"Mr. Haydn, the compiler of the *Dictionary of Dates*, and other useful works, died lately, leaving a widow and three children, on whose behalf an appeal was made to the public. On this, a writer in the *Morning Chronicle* took up her cause, advocated her claims, and suggested that the Literary Fund ought to exert itself on the occasion. Forth-

with there came out an angry reply, which looked very like an official rejoinder. Therein, the public was informed that the Committee, 'from a proper feeling of delicacy,' could not 'reveal the relief they afford'; therefore—mark the distinction—Mrs. Haydn was bound to 'reveal' it. There is 'delicacy'!"

"To these words, in their sense and in their suggestion, Mr. Bell gave an emphatic denial. In his own name, and in the names of the Committee, he declared that the rejoinder was in no way official—that the Committee had taken no part in forcing Mrs. Haydn to explain. And to prove the delicacy, which the *Athenæum* had been unable to see, he explained, at some length, and in the name of the Committee, all that had been done, not only for Mrs. Haydn, the case in point, but also for Mr. Haydn years ago. 'The report of what he said, as given in *The Times*,' was in substance:—

"The speaker went on to say that in six years Mr. Haydn had received no less than 200*l.* from the funds of the Society; that one of the three children of his widow had been provided for through the kindness of the Earl of Shaftesbury, another through the kindness of a member of the Committee of the Literary Fund, and the third and last had been got into the St. Ann's Asylum entirely through the exertions of the Fund Committee, who spent 67*l.* in the purchase of votes to secure its election."

"Will the fact seem credible, after this grave statement, that the Literary Fund has absolutely and literally done nothing for Mrs. Haydn except present her with the miserable 25*l.* to which we drew attention? Will the fact seem credible that the Fund compelled Mrs. Haydn, against her taste and her judgment, and against the counsel of her best friends, to publish the statement on which we remarked?"

"As regards the first fact, we have authority for stating, in the plainest possible terms—first, that the act of kindness which placed Mr. Haydn's girl in the Training School was performed two years ago, during the author's lifetime, by Lord Shaftesbury, who is not even a member of the Literary Fund; second, that Mr. Haydn's eldest son received his appointment through the means of a gentleman in no way connected with the Literary Fund; and, third, that Mr. Haydn's second son was placed in the St. Ann's Asylum in a manner altogether different from that represented by Mr. Bell. We have authority for the belief, that on Mrs. Haydn's letter of appeal appearing in *The Times*, a most benevolent lady called at the Society's rooms, but not in consequence of any action on its part, and proposed to aid in getting the boy placed—in the end contributing 50*l.* out of the 67*l.* required for that purpose. Other friends of the deceased, but who are not members of the Fund, wrote to the publisher of his works, who answered by sending 10*l.* to the rooms of the Society. Another gentleman also contributed 10*l.*—and thus the money, which Mr. Bell represents as having been raised 'entirely through the exertions of the Fund Committee,' was obtained from the outside,—and would have been so obtained if the 'Fund Committee' had never existed."

"So much for what the Committee assert, in answer to the *Athenæum*, they had done. Now for what the Committee say they had not done—in the way of compelling the deceased author's widow to break the seal of confidence, under which she and her orphan children had received their dole."

"We have reason to believe that, on the appearance of the widow's letter of appeal in *The Times*, Mr. Blewitt, the Secretary, went to her, and told her, in peremptory terms, that she was bound to make a public statement of what had been done for her and for her husband. From this course she very naturally shrank. Having occasion, for other purposes, to see one of the Registrars, Mr. Harrison, that officer of the Society also pressed her to write her statement for the newspapers. She most reluctantly consented, and began her explanation under protest of the phrase, 'Being called upon to state,' &c. This letter was sent to Mr. Harrison, the Registrar, at his own request, and was by him forwarded to *The Times*, which journal very properly abstained from inserting a letter evidently wrong from its writer. On its non-appearance in *The Times*, the writer begged to withdraw it. But Mr. Harrison, the Registrar, insisted on sending it to the *Literary Gazette*,—and in that journal it appeared, more or less altered, and with the introductory protest omitted!"

"Will the fact seem credible, after this grave statement, that in every one particular the allegations here made are untrue? Credible or not, however, such is the case."

We shall deal first with the charges here made against the Fund. These are twofold—1st. That it "has absolutely and literally done nothing for Mrs. Haydn, except present her with a miserable 25*l.*," and next, that it "compelled Mrs. Haydn, against her taste and her judgment, and against the counsels of her best friends, to publish the statement" which appeared in our columns, in the shape of a letter from Mrs. Haydn herself. Both charges are equally unfounded.

Mrs. Haydn first brought her case before the public in a letter to *The Times*, dated 16th January last, in which she states that she is left with "three children totally unprovided for," and who "are dependent on her feeble exertions." No one could read her letter without supposing that all these children were then upon her hands, and estimating her claim upon public sympathy accordingly. The fact, however, was, that in 1854 her eldest child had been placed by Lord Shaftesbury

in the Training School, and that in December, 1856, her eldest son had been appointed to a clerkship. Mr. Bell mentioned the former of these facts at the meeting, simply to show that Mrs. Haydn had not three children on her hands, as she stated in her letter to *The Times*, and thus to clear the case for the only important question—What had been done by or through the Fund for the other children? The *Athenæum*, therefore, in this respect, only states what was stated by Mr. Bell. But, says the *Athenæum*, "Mrs. Haydn's second son received his appointment through the means of a gentleman in no way connected with the Literary Fund." That appointment was obtained through Sir John Forbes, one of the Committee of the Fund, who agreed to become his surety for 200*l.*, which he is now. The fact was stated at the meeting by Mr. Bell. It is suppressed by the *Athenæum*.

Again, as to the purchase of votes to get Mr. Haydn's other boy into the St. Ann's Asylum: this, it is alleged, was not effected through the agency of the Fund. What are the facts? When Mrs. Haydn's letter appeared in *The Times*, the lady referred to by the *Athenæum*, who was aware of the great amount of personal trouble and interest taken on previous occasions by Mr. Blewitt, the Society's Secretary, in the affairs of Mr. Haydn and his family, applied to him to advise her as to the best means of forwarding the boy's election. She applied to him, to use her own words, because he had shown "a most kind interest in Mrs. Haydn," and she trusted entirely to his judgment and discretion as to the amount she should subscribe, giving in the first instance 25 guineas. A gentleman, guided also by Mr. Blewitt's recommendation, subscribed five guineas. Mr. Blewitt wrote to several gentlemen connected with the Fund, requesting them to vote for Mrs. Haydn, and he called on Mr. Moxon, to explain what he was doing, and to solicit his co-operation. That gentleman at once gave him a cheque for 10*l.*, and told him to call for more, if necessary. Within two days of the election, Mr. Blewitt, whose exertions in the canvass had been unremitting, ascertained that the boy's election would not be secure without upwards of twenty more votes. He wrote to the lady before referred to, mentioning the fact, and she sent him in reply a cheque for 25 guineas more. The boy polled 292 votes, of which 120 were purchased with the money which was thus obtained through the instrumentality of the Secretary of the Fund, and which actually passed through his hands. Yet it was "not in consequence of any action" on the part of the Fund that the boy was elected! If none but "friends of the deceased, not members of the Fund," secured that result, how came his publisher to give 10*l.* to the Society? how came the lady in question to open a communication with the Fund? Was there no correspondence by its Secretary with them as well as with Mrs. Haydn's friends? Did he take no trouble in making sure of the funds required to secure the boy's election? Mrs. Haydn has warmly expressed her gratitude in writing for these very services. There can indeed be no doubt, that but for the "action" of the Fund, the boy would not have been elected; and yet the public are told that it has "absolutely and literally done nothing for Mrs. Haydn, except present her with a miserable 25*l.*" If it had done no more, we cannot see that it would have been open to blame. A Society of this kind is bound to measure its gifts in some degree according to the literary eminence of the individual. Mr. Haydn's claims as a literary man were very low. He was a mere artisan in literature, a compiler, without the learning necessary to make his compilations valuable. For his works we know he was fully remunerated, and in the four years before his death, (not six, as stated by the *Athenæum*) the Fund had given him 200*l.* Had they exceeded this sum, looking at their resources, and the claims upon them, their discretion might very fairly have been questioned; and it is infinitely to the credit of the officials that they drew no further on the funds of their trust, but applied themselves to rendering such extraordinary assistance as they were enabled to give through their Secretary and otherwise.

It only remains to dispose of the statement that Mrs. Haydn was "compelled" by Mr. Blewitt and Mr. Harrison to write her statement to the newspapers. We shall deal with the case of these gentlemen separately. Mr. Blewitt is charged with having gone to Mrs. Haydn, on the appearance of her letter of appeal in *The Times*, and told her, "in peremptory terms," that she was bound to make a public statement of what had been done for her husband and herself by the Fund. This is not the fact. Mr. Blewitt, on the occasion referred to, had gone to Mrs. Haydn in consequence of the application made to him by the benevolent lady before mentioned, to ascertain what sum of money would be necessary to secure the boy Haydn's election. That morning (21st January) an article had appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, charging the Society with having wholly neglected the Haydn case. Mr. Blewitt pointed Mrs. Haydn's attention to the article, and suggested that, as the Society itself could not speak, it would be only an act of justice in Mrs. Haydn to correct the false impression which the article was calculated to produce. This suggestion was made in all kindness, it being quite as important to Mrs. Haydn at that moment that she should relieve herself from the suspicion of ingratitude to the Fund which through its officers was then labouring extra-officially for her benefit, as it was to the Fund that it should be relieved from the imputation of having neglected her case. Such are the facts with regard to Mr. Blewitt. The abuse of Mrs. Haydn's friends is the return made to that gentleman for the active kindness of years to Mr. Haydn, of which the evidence remains in a pile of letters from that gentleman.

In regard to Mr. Harrison, the statement of the *Athenæum* is in every particular false. To that gentleman Mrs. Haydn was brought last month by Mr. Francis Fuller, of Abingdon-street, for the purpose of asking his aid in getting her son into the St. Ann's School, and requesting his advocacy with the Fund on her behalf. Surprised at the application, Mr. Harrison inquired if Mr. Fuller was aware of any communications which had taken place between Mrs. Haydn and the Fund? Mrs. Haydn replied that he was not, but that he might be informed of what had been done by the Fund. This was done, and Mr. Harrison then called the attention of his visitors to the article in the *Chronicle*, saying that it would be a graceful act to put the Fund right with the public. Mr. Fuller then suggested that, as an act of common justice, Mrs. Haydn should write a letter to *The Times*, relieving the Society from the imputation cast upon it. To this Mrs. Haydn at once cheerfully assented, and the next day Mr. Fuller called on Mr. Harrison with a letter from Mrs. Haydn to *The Times*. On reading the letter, it appeared to both gentlemen that the opening words conveyed the false impression that it was not the free act of the writer, and Mr. Fuller said this should be altered. He called on Mr. Harrison again later in the day, and told him he had left the letter at *The Times* Office, and that if it did not appear the next day he would send a copy to the *Literary Gazette*. A day or two afterwards Mrs. Haydn called on Mr. Harrison, and stated that she had been advised to withdraw the letter. Mr. Harrison replied that it was not, and never had been in his possession, and that she had better write to Mr. Fuller. This she said she could not do, and then withdrew. We state the above facts with the consent and upon the authority of Mr. Fuller as well as of Mr. Harrison.

How, then, stands the case? The *Athenæum* says the letter was sent to Mr. Harrison. It never was sent to him. Mr. Harrison, says the *Athenæum*, forwarded it to *The Times*. Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Haydn's friend, forwarded it to *The Times*. Mr. Harrison, says the *Athenæum*, insisted on sending it to the *Literary Gazette*. Mr. Harrison did not know it had been sent, until he read it in our columns. One other of the *Athenæum's* "facts," remains. The letter appeared in our pages, says this scrupulous stickler for truth, "more or less altered, and with the introductory protest omitted!" The letter was printed *verbatim* as it came to us, and is very much at the service of our contemporary, if he values the autograph of the writer.

We will not suppose that our contemporary could have known the facts when it published the statement to which we have thus adverted. But not the less is it gravely culpable in giving circulation to charges of so serious a nature, without taking the simplest precaution to verify its statements. A cry of Reform, from such a quarter, and so enforced, will have few to echo it; and ere another year Mr. Dilke and his friends may be reasonably expected, if they go on thus, to have "conquered" just as much "ground" as they have done last year.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

SIR,—Were another edition of the work by the elder Disraeli, entitled the 'Quarrels of Authors,' to be published, an amusing, though scarcely instructive, episode might be added, detailing the proceedings of a certain literary clique, in their undignified quarrels with the lawful bread and butter of distressed authors as administered by the Royal Literary Fund—lashed as those quarrels have now for some years been into more or less fury by the thunders of the *Athenæum*, and the bad taste of the 'chronicler of small talk'—(I had almost written small beer)—of the *Illustrated London News*. As one of that numerous and, for the pecuniary interests of the Royal Literary Fund, important class, included in the above-named chronicler's category of "booksellers, binders, and stitchers," I may remark that, but for the gentlemanly application of the Secretary of the Society, I should probably even now not have been one of its members. In my capacity, however, as a member of the Fund, I very speedily became practically acquainted with its honourable and useful working. I may refer to the widow of an author whom I had known, one of that type well represented by the late Mr. Haydn, as being an author possessing few higher or original faculties, yet with the qualities of perseverance, knack in arrangement of materials, and a retentive memory, who had, during a long career, produced by his pen a series of useful works of reference. The usual inquiries were instituted in the most delicate manner by the officers of the Fund, and a cheque for 60*l.* was placed in my hands, with the request that I would, if possible, do something of a permanent character for the poor widow. The donation of the Literary Fund inspired confidence wherever I made the case known, and in a few weeks I was enabled to purchase an annuity of 30*l.* per annum for the life of that widow of an author. Thus much, Sir, I feel it to be only just to mention of my experiences of the operations of the Royal Literary Fund, although I am at the same time perfectly aware that corporation is too firmly established in public favour to need any advocacy in blazoning forth its merits, which are to "do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame." I might here, in conclusion, fittingly perhaps have pointed a moral to some carping critics, and as a subscriber to the Guild of Literature and Art, have inquired what is intended to be done with its funds, long since subscribed with the expectation they would be applied to a useful purpose? But I will not emulate the bad taste of which too much has already been exhibited in this controversy, by entering upon that question in the present communication. I therefore subscribe myself as

Your very obedient servant,

"A STITCHER."

Amen Corner, March 19th.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

A DEPUTATION from the Society of Arts had an interview with Lord Palmerston, at Cambridge House, on the 11th instant, to present the subjoined Memorial in reference to the Society's Examinations. For the present we give simply the Memorial, postponing till next week our remarks on the ludicrous misapprehension it involves of the scientific rank and intentions of the Royal Society.

"The Council of the Society of Arts have learned that a memorial has been presented to your Lordship by the President and Council of the Royal Society, embodying several suggestions as to the

most effectual means to promote the study of science, and to advance the general intelligence of the people.

Among the recommendations contained in this memorial will be found the following:—

1. The establishment of classes in Metropolitan and Provincial Schools, in which the elements of science may be taught on a systematic plan, and that such classes be promoted by government grants in aid of local funds.
2. The establishment of Provincial Lectures, in aid of the above classes.
3. The establishment of Examinations.
4. The formation of Provincial Museums.
5. The distribution and circulation of duplicate specimens from the British Museum and other similar Institutions.
6. The formation of Public Libraries.
7. The more extensive distribution of National Publications, bearing upon the cultivation and advancement of science.
8. The augmentation of the Parliamentary grant for the reward of useful discoveries in Science and attainments in Literature and the Arts, so as to admit of good Service Pensions to men of eminent scientific merit.
9. The augmentation of the annual grant of £1000 to the Royal Society, whenever special reasons may be assigned for this increase.
10. The formal recognition of the President and Council of the Royal Society as a body authorized to advise the government, *inter alia*, on the measures necessary to be adopted for the more general diffusion of a knowledge of physical science among the nation at large.
11. The alternative proposed of substituting a Government Board for the President and Council of the Royal Society.
12. And lastly. That such of the above recommendations as involve an expenditure of public money, might eventually be carried out by appropriating a certain portion of the fees received from Patents; and the memorial concludes with the expression of the opinion of the President and Council of the Royal Society, that no application of these fees could be desired more appropriate than the devotion of a portion of them to the encouragement of abstract science, to which practical art is under so many and such important obligations.

The foregoing recommendations of a body of such high scientific eminence and historical celebrity as the Royal Society of London, formally submitted to your Lordship, receive, with but one or two exceptions, the concurrence of the Society of Arts. Those measures for the improvement of national instruction and the advancement of science which the Royal Society now presses on the notice of her Majesty's government, with the full weight of its high authority, the Society of Arts has for some time past been engaged in submitting to the practical tests of a varied experience. Four years ago (Jan. 19, 1853,) a Committee of this Society was appointed by the Council "to inquire and report how far and in what manner the Society of Arts may aid in the promotion of such an education of the people as shall lead to a more general and systematic cultivation of the arts, manufactures, and commerce—the chartered objects of the Society."

This Committee, in its Report on Industrial Instruction (presented April 26, 1853), strongly urged on the attention of the Council the value of class teaching, and the importance of its correlative, periodical examination.

"We have received," says the Committee, "a very large amount of decisive testimony in favour of some system of examination for provincial schools in connexion with a central body, which should be empowered to grant certificates of proficiency. On this subject the evidence is unanimous and decisive. Several of our correspondents, whose opinions are entitled to the gravest consideration, attach the utmost importance to a practical testing of results by means of examination. Some would go so far as to say, that without some conservative provision of this kind, no organization, however perfect it may be at first, can long be secured from inefficiency and decay. Amongst others, we would direct attention to the important testimony of Baron Liebig, given at page 46 of this Report."

To carry into effect the recommendations of this Committee, the Society of Arts did not wait until funds should be placed at its disposal, but, drawing from its own limited resources, had already undertaken to submit to trial measures nearly identical with those which the Royal Society has now deliberately pronounced to be the most judicious that could be adopted. The Society of

Arts is now engaged in promoting nearly all the objects commended to the attention of the Government in the Memorial of the President and Council of the Royal Society.

The Society of Arts has associated with it no fewer than 400 of the Mechanics' Institutions of the United Kingdom, and with all it carries on a mutually beneficial correspondence. In these associated institutions, which will probably become the provincial schools of science, it has laboured to establish class teaching and systematic instruction: and the Council have much satisfaction in stating that although the Society's scheme of examinations is practically before the public for little more than twelve months, a marked improvement has already taken place in the character of the class instruction, and in the attendance on the classes at many of the Institutions in Union, while in others, for the first time, class teaching has been established expressly with reference to the Society of Arts Examinations. Stimulated by the hope of obtaining distinction at these examinations, young men are found to attend the classes with remarkable diligence and zeal. This system of periodical examination was successfully inaugurated last June, at the Society's House in the Adelphi, when prizes and certificates were awarded to candidates, some of whom have since obtained official appointments. The Council propose to have the examinations conducted on a more extensive scale this year in London and Huddersfield. Again, this year a special prize fund, upwards of 500*l.*, has been subscribed by the promoters of the scheme, and this independently of local contributions. Considerably more than 500 of the most eminent manufacturing and commercial firms, and great employers of labour, whether material or mental, throughout the country, have signed a formal declaration of confidence in the examinations and certificates of the Society of Arts, while of the forty-five examiners who give their unpaid services, and who constitute the Society of Arts Board of Examiners, nineteen are Fellows of the Royal Society. The examinations are not restricted to physical science—they include as well mathematics, physical geography, English history, English literature, modern languages, and drawing. The Society of Arts so far as the funds at its disposal will allow, proposes to develop its scheme of examinations until, taking advantage of railway facilities, the local centres of examination shall be so far multiplied as to bring the advantages of the system easily within the reach of all.

With regard to the distribution of duplicates from the British Museum and other like Institutions, the Society of Arts is now in communication with all the Mechanics' Institutions throughout the United Kingdom, with a view to ascertain their opinions, and to consult their wishes on the subject. It is here proper to state that, at the present time, and for three years past, the Society of Arts has been engaged in circulating works of art among the Institutions associated with the Society.

As to the establishment of provincial lectures, it is one of those educational questions with which the Society of Arts has had to deal for several years past; and it is one on which it has acquired a large amount of accumulated experience. The Society has afforded aid to Institutions and to lecturers alike, by publishing copious lists of lecturers, and by giving other facilities. The Council are however of opinion, that much success is not to be looked for from metropolitan centralization in this matter.

As regards the establishment of public libraries, the Council believe that Mr. Ewart's Act, slightly amended, so as to give power of appeal to a poll, and its provisions made more generally known, would afford all necessary and just facilities for the purpose.

With respect to the suggestion of the President and Council of the Royal Society, to constitute the President and Council of that body "the recognised Advisers of the Government as to the measures to be adopted for the general diffusion of a knowledge of physical science among the nation at large," and the proposal not only "to augment

occasionally their annual parliamentary grant of 1000*l.*," but "to place a further sum at their disposal from the patent fees," the Council would observe, that a Committee of the Society of Arts (with Sir Joseph Paxton its chairman) investigated, during the past year, the subject of the surplus received from patent fees, and came to the conclusion that it ought to be devoted to encourage and aid the progress of invention, on which so intimately depends the advancement of the arts, manufactures, and commerce of the country. The precise mode of its application the Committee did not consider it their duty to point out.

Finally, the Council of the Society of Arts beg, with much deference, to place before your Lordship and her Majesty's Government the following facts:—That the Society, incorporated as "The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce," has been established for more than a century; that it has, on public objects alone, expended upwards of 150,000*l.* in that time; that it has been the originator of several societies of great and acknowledged usefulness;* that the germ of the Great Exhibition was developed within its walls; that, for nearly a century past, it has occupied its own hired house in the Adelphi; that it has never been accommodated with apartments provided by the State; that, during the whole long period of the Society's existence, it has neither asked nor received a single shilling of public money for any purpose whatever; and that it has secured, continues to retain, and will labour to deserve, the confidence frankly and freely reposed in it by the Mechanics' Institutions, as also by the commercial and manufacturing classes of the country. They therefore respectfully submit to your Lordship, that the Society of Arts, whether tested by its antecedent, or estimated by its present labours, is the proper body in whose hands it should be left to carry out the work in which it is now actually engaged, embracing those measures so ably indicated by the Royal Society, for the promotion of the scientific and industrial instruction of the country; and they earnestly pray, should it be in the contemplation of her Majesty's Government to make any grant in aid of this desirable object, that assistance may be afforded, commensurate with local contributions, to the classes for systematic instruction in Mechanics' Institutions, but so as not in any way to fetter the free action, or to compromise the independence of those bodies. As the sphere of the Society's operations is now rapidly expanding, since applications to hold periodical examinations, and to award certificates, have already been received from York, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Leeds, Nottingham, Salisbury, and other provincial centres, they further pray that the Society of Arts may so far be recognised by the Government, and placed in such a position as will enable its Council to make satisfactory arrangements to develop its plan for the advancement of systematic instruction, by the help of periodical examination, so as to realize the expressed hope of a large majority of the institutions of the kingdom, that the Society of Arts shall be authorised and empowered to carry out, for their benefit, to a national success, the great work of industrial instruction it has deliberately undertaken."

W. H. SKES, Chairman,
P. LE NEVE FOSTER, Secretary.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE list of Candidates for the Fellowship of the Royal Society, which has just been closed for this year, presents a motley group of aspirants for the highest scientific honour which this country has it in its power to bestow. Scarcely a third are qualified according to the reformed standard of merit which has been acted upon during the last few years, and the pretensions of some are simply ridiculous. Fortunately the selection of the Council is limited to fifteen, and we trust to be

* That many of the Scientific and Literary Institutions of our Kingdom in various sub-divisions of art and science, have emanated from the said Society.—CHARTER OF INCORPORATION OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

able to record at the proper time that it has been exercised with independent judgment and discretion. The names of the Candidates are as follows:—T. B. Burr, F.R.A.S.; G. B. Buckton, F.C.S.; Capt. E. M. Boxer, F.A.S.; S. H. Beekes; S. Brown, F.S.S.; Dr. C. T. Beke; Professor G. Boole; H. F. Baxter; Dr. T. J. Balfour; Dr. R. Ball, M.R.I.A.; Professor L. S. Beale; W. Coulson; Dr. Chowne; T. R. Crampton, C.E.; R. Cull; T. Davidson, F.G.S.; J. Dixon; S. W. Fullom; G. Grote; Dr. W. B. Herepath, R. Hill, F.R.A.S.; Rev. T. Kirkman; Dr. Letheby; J. Young, F.C.S.; B. Woodcroft; Dr. F. B. Winslow; J. Whitworth; J. Welsh; H. C. Sorby, F.G.S.; W. W. Smyth, M.A.; Professor C. P. Smyth; Dr. R. A. Smith, F.C.S.; Dr. A. Smith; Lieut. B. C. Pim; W. Peters, F.R.A.S.; J. Penn, C.E.; J. Marshall; Dr. W. March; Dr. D. Macdonough; G. Macilwain; W. A. Lewis, F.G.S.; and Dr. T. Williams.

The Council of the Horticultural Society have announced their determination to hold a grand Show in Chiswick Gardens, on the 2nd and 3rd of June, consisting of Ornamental Plants, Fruit, Vegetables, and Horticultural Manufactures. The Prizes to be competed for on this occasion are upon a sufficiently liberal scale. In Section 1, Ornamental Plants, they amount to 391*l.* 10*s.*; in Section 2, Fruit, they amount to 71*l.* 10*s.*; and in Section 3, Vegetables, to 28*l.* 5*s.* In Section 4, Horticultural Manufactures, it is not intended to offer Prizes or Certificates, the advantages of exhibiting being considered adequate to excite a warm competition. The Manufactures are to be arranged in twelve classes, comprising Heating Apparatus, Machines, Garden Tools, Cutlery, Pottery, Labels, Objects of Decoration, Materials for Construction, Protecting Materials, Bee Hives, Philosophical Instruments, and Miscellaneous Articles. The admission on the first day of the exhibition will be by 5*s.* Tickets, purchasable by Fellows prior to the 23rd May, at 3*s.* 6*d.*; and on the second day by 2*s.* 6*d.* Tickets, purchasable by Fellows prior to the 23rd May at 2*s.* It is intended also to hold an autumnal exhibition of Fruit, at Willis's Rooms, on the 24th October, on which occasion prizes to the amount of 94*l.* 15*s.* will be offered for competition. Since their accession to office in May last, the Council have been anxiously considering what changes in the Society can be most advantageously made with a view to promoting good gardening and rendering the Society more stable. The general result of their deliberations has been—1, The Establishment of a New Class of Two Guinea Members; 2, The Abolishment of Admission Fees, all new Subscriptions being in future payable in advance; and 3, The Reduction of Expenses at the Garden until it could be placed under one General Superintendent, whose standing in the horticultural world would secure general confidence. Such a person has at length been found in Mr. George McEwen, formerly gardener to the late Duke of Norfolk, at Arundel, where his horticultural skill long since placed him in the front rank of his profession. With this accession of practical talent, and the aid of funds voluntarily provided by a large number of Fellows, the Council believe that the public importance of the Garden at Chiswick will be second to none, and that it will become a great seat of instruction and education as well as of experimental horticulture.

At the moment when our relations with China have assumed a new aspect, and when a British Plenipotentiary is about to proceed to the East, the death of Earl Amherst recalls a former period of negotiation with the Celestial Empire. It was in 1816 that Lord Amherst was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the Emperor of China. The story of his voyage in the *Alcete* frigate, and of his progress towards Peking, is familiarly known to readers of books of travel, and the circumstances that led to the failure of his mission have now come to possess a political importance. Having refused to submit to the humiliating ceremonies required as the condition of obtaining admission to the Emperor's court, he was obliged to withdraw without proceeding to any diplomatic business. On the

return voyage of the *Alceste*, he was wrecked off the island of Poolo Laut. It was a narrow escape; and in the narrative of the adventure it is mentioned that, "when the embassy landed on the island from the wreck, as very little provision had been brought away from the frigate, Lord Amherst assembled his people, and told them that a gill of water with half a gill of rum was to be the daily allowance of himself and of all." In the boats of the ship they made their way to Batavia, then recently acquired for the British crown by Lord Minto, by whom the Ambassador and his Secretary, the late Sir Henry Ellis, were received, and the remainder of the crew of the *Alceste* were brought from the island where they had found shelter. In the following year, on his way home to England, Lord Amherst had several interviews with Napoleon at St. Helena, of which notice is taken in the memoirs of Las Cases and Bourrienne. Soon after his return, he was appointed Governor-General of India, and it was for his services there that he was created Earl Amherst and Viscount Holmesdale. He was next selected to proceed to Canada as Governor-General of the United Provinces, in the arrangement of the affairs of which he had acted with credit in early life as one of the Commissioners. He did not go out as Governor, and for the last twenty years has lived in retirement, rarely taking part in public affairs. He died at his estate of Knowle Park, near Sevenoaks, Kent, on the 13th instant, in his eighty-fifth year. By his death a pension of 3000*l.* a year ceases, which had been bestowed during his life as a recognition of his public services. The Narrative of the Mission to China was published by Sir Henry Ellis on his return. Although the opportunities of observation were limited, and the information obtained most vague, that work was one of the principal authorities on China until the writings of Gutzlaff and Sir John Davis, the Abbé Huc and Mr. Meadows, and other recent travellers, made us better acquainted with this singular people.

The good people of Dover—especially those who regard with veneration the interesting remains of antiquity in their town and its neighbourhood—are in a state of disquiet, in consequence of a report which has reached them, that Government has given orders for the immediate demolition of the remains of the ancient church within the castle, on the site of which it is proposed to build a chapel for the use of the garrison. We understand that the Society of Antiquaries have addressed a letter to Lord Pamunne on this subject. These remains are not only venerable for their antiquity, but offer some remarkable peculiarities interesting to the architect. While this is threatened in one part of England, the work of "restoration"—an evil still more to be dreaded by the lover of ancient art—menaces the church of Battlefield in a distant county. It is recorded that this church was built by Henry IV. in gratitude for his success at the battle of Shrewsbury; it therefore affords the date—an interesting example of the architecture of that period. The nave is now roofless and in ruins. The chancel was some time in the last century fitted up for divine service, but of course in the bad taste of the period. A scheme is on foot for the restoration of the ruined nave and tower of this church. This is to be effected by means of a subscription. A sum of nearly 700*l.* has already been contributed for this object, which, if carried out in the spirit which has been manifested in many parts of England, will be the means of destroying archaeological and architectural data of the greatest possible value. A circular has appeared within the last few days containing a list of the subscribers, and soliciting further donations. In common with all lovers of antiquity, we trust the projected repairs will be limited to the preservation of this interesting church; that what is characteristic of its style and age will be religiously preserved; and that neither the present age nor posterity will be insulted with new creations calculated to mislead the architectural student, and disgust the antiquary by its obvious falsity.

The rivalry about the two routes to India and the East is at present displayed in new intensity

with regard to the electro-telegraphic communication. There are two lines bidding for financial support from the public, the one in connexion with the Euphrates Valley Railroad, and the other connected with the existing Egyptian route of transit. The Government and the East India Company have made provisional concessions to the Euphrates Valley telegraph line, guaranteeing privileges as soon as the communication is completed. The promoters of the rival scheme are naturally jealous of these concessions, but the public service will gain by the competition, to which fresh activity has thus been imparted. By the Euphrates Valley route the line will proceed from Alexandria, as a submarine telegraph, to Jaffa and Seleucia, thence overland through Mesopotamia to Bussorah, and afterwards under the Persian Gulf to Kurrachee, where it will join the great system of telegraph communication already in operation throughout the Indian empire. The Egyptian line also starts from Alexandria, across the Isthmus to Suez, thence under the Red Sea to Aden, and across the Persian Gulf to Kurrachee. The advantage of the Euphrates Valley telegraph is, that it is shorter by three hundred miles; but this is of immaterial consequence either as regards expense or rapidity of communication, while the larger proportion of the route being overland will imply greater difficulty and cost in protecting the line.

Among the candidates for seats in the new Parliament there is a fair proportion of authors, and of men who have distinguished themselves in literature as well as in public affairs. Without referring to veteran politicians such as Lord John Russell and Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, we may mention Mr. Warren, Mr. Sergeant Kinglake, Mr. Layard, Sir Henry Rawlinson, Mr. Lawrence Oliphant, and Mr. Hannay.

At a meeting of that "right merrie" Noviomagian Society of Antiquaries on Wednesday evening, Mr. Henry Stevens, a member of the Club, better known as its American Minister, announced an interesting acquisition he had recently made, in the shape of an old box full of papers, which had been removed from old Drury-lane Theatre, and, in all probability, had not been opened since that time. He produced on that occasion, for the inspection of the members and visitors present, some of its contents, consisting of documents of various kinds, of Cobb, the Manager; receipts of Mrs. Jordan for salaries paid to her; a racy bill of costs and charges for musical arrangements made for the theatre, by Hook, the father of Theodore Hook, with the interest that had accrued thereon duly appended at foot, all of which, however, apparently remained unliquidated; together with an original, unacted, and unpublished play of Charles Lamb as well as a musical drama of Sheridan both written in school copy-books of the period. We may perhaps have the opportunity afforded us of glancing more in detail at the contents of this theatrical "find," in the meanwhile we briefly chronicle it for the information of our play-going readers.

An interesting collection of Greek coins, including some specimens of considerable rarity, was sold at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's, on Thursday. A copper medallion from Perinthus, of Severus Alexander, with bust, and Jupiter and eagle reverse, sold for 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; two copper Nicomedia, of Commodus, reverse statue of Ceres, and Magnesia, of Maximus, reverse, Vulcan forging the arms of Achilles, 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; a medallion of Pergamus, Caracalla, reverse, the Emperor and Æsculapius standing before an altar, 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; Amasia, of Severus Alexander, A. 228, unpublished, 8*l.*; a gold coin of Alexander the Great, with Phœnician characters on reverse, 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; a gold piece of Philippi, head of Hercules covered with lion's skin, weight 141 grains, 21*l.* 10*s.*; a silver piece of Argos, diademed head of Juno, reverse, two dolphins with tripod between, weight 185 grains, 8*l.*; an Athenian tetradrachma, mask with protruded tongue, reverse, lioness couching, 10*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Itanus, in Crete, Triton striking a fish, reverse, two serpents, weight 174 grains, 14*l.*; Eretria, Eubœa, bull, reverse, polypus in a sunk square, weight 62 grains, 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

The Annual Congress of the Archaeological Institute is fixed to be held this year, about the middle of July, at Chester; and that of the Archaeological Association in some part of Norfolk.

Mr. C. R. Weld is preparing for publication a new work, to be entitled 'Vacations in Ireland.'

It is officially announced in the French *Moniteur*, that the Imperial library at Paris received in the course of 1856 presents of a great number of historical and economic works from the Asiatic Society of Great Britain, the Academy of Sciences of Bavaria, the Royal Academy of Amsterdam, the Sardinian Government, the Smithsonian Institute of the United States, the Academy of St. Petersburg, the Academy of Belgium, the Belgian Government, the Academy of Leyden, and the Swedish Government. It also received presents from private persons, and amongst them a *Translation of the Gospel of Saint Matthew into Loveland Scotch*, and a translation of the same Gospel into one of the Basque dialects from Prince Lucien Bonaparte. Manuscripts, of more or less importance, were also presented to it, and amongst them was a letter, written on parchment, by the Duke d'Anjou to Queen Elizabeth, on the 17th December, 1581—this letter came from Mr. John Fox. It likewise received donations of maps and charts from the British Government and Admiralty, the Dutch Government, and Lieutenant Maury, of Washington. Some engravings and medals were also presented to it.

The weekly sittings of the Roman Archaeological Society, which have been interrupted since the death of Dr. Emil Braun last autumn, were resumed at the latter end of February, in the presence of Herr von Thile and a numerous attendance of Roman and foreign antiquaries and savants. Professor Henzen, the present secretary, having alluded to the great loss which the Society had experienced, not alone from the death of Dr. Braun, but also from that of other influential members, including the Signori Canina and Orioli, opened the meeting by recapitulating the rules and principles which he thought most likely to promote the welfare of the Society, and the advancement of antiquarian knowledge. He concluded by directing attention to some excavations and discoveries of ancient remains, which had been commenced during last spring, in the neighbourhood of the Monte Testaccio, and which he deemed very important for the history of ancient Rome.

The 'Giornale di Roma' mentions the discovery of two marble sarcophagi by the Archaeological Committee in the cemetery of St. Callisti. They have been both evidently used for Christian burial in very early times; one, the smallest of the two, has been covered with bas-reliefs, which it is plain to be seen have been defaced, and from which one would deduce that it has been made in pagan and used or re-used in Christian times. The larger sarcophagus is of an early Christian date, and is ornamented with figures of Christ and the lamb, and a relief representing a female resting with her head on two volumes under a pavilion, and a cup at her feet. These bas-reliefs are sketched out, but not finished. It contained the body of a man, about five feet in height, the skull still covered with light-coloured hair. The body had been embalmed.

We announced some time ago that Messrs. Hachette, the great publishers of Paris, had commenced the publication of the *Mémoires du Duc de Saint Simon* at a remarkably low price. We have now to say that the edition has attained the fifth volume, and that it will be completed in due time. It is the only authentic edition of this remarkable work ever produced—all preceding editions having been spoiled by innumerable omissions, interpolations, and mistakes. It is really surprising to see how much the fine old Tacitus-like historian gains by being reproduced in all his integrity. It is likewise pleasing to learn that his work attains extraordinary success amongst the reading public—a fact which, considering the political and literary apathy into which the French have fallen, was hardly to have been expected. Apart from the light they throw on the political history of France and Europe,

and on the men who played a part therein, the first five volumes contain a good deal relating to James II. and his family, which is of peculiar interest to the English.

The University of Prague has suffered a severe loss in the death of Dr. Chambon, the professor of Roman jurisprudence. He was greatly beloved and respected by all who knew him. Dr. Chambon had been only a short time at Prague, having been invited, about four years ago, from Jena, to fill the legal academic chair at Prague. He died of typhus fever, and his body was accompanied by a numerous troop of scholars and sorrowing friends to the railway terminus, on its way to the cemetery of Jena, where it is destined to repose.

The March number of the 'Transactions of the Imperial Central Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities in Austria,' contains a highly interesting description of the jewels and ornaments belonging to the imperial apostolic crown. This is the beginning of a large illustrated work which Dr. Francis Bock, of Cologne, is bringing out, on the history of the insignia and jewels of Austria.

An illustrated history of the House of Romanow, in five volumes, large folio size, is now being published at Leipzig. The late Emperor Nicholas gave his permission that the work should be dedicated to him, and since his death the compiler, Baron von Derschaw, has been aided in collecting materials by the present Emperor of the Russians and the Imperial Government.

Several ancient Roman tombs have within the last few days been discovered in Orsava Vecchia, in Lombardy, and in one of them a ring, with a tree, a heart, and the letters VFFEGESERI engraved on the outside edge; a copper coin was also found in the same grave.

A Greek poet, named Salomos, has just died in Greece, and it is said that the government intends publishing his works at the public expense.

Quintana, a Spanish poet and writer of considerable celebrity, died in Madrid last week, and was buried with a good deal of pomp.

FINE ARTS.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

Of all our Fine-Art exhibitions, that of the National Institution is certainly not that to which we can refer with the most lively satisfaction as being a fair representation of English art, or as displaying on the whole a successful expenditure of thought and labour. It claims, however, a place among the collections of its kind, as a rising institution, entitled to all encouragement, though as yet in an uncertain position, and not free from the imperfections and peculiarities of its earliest days. There is still to be noticed a preponderance of a particular school of landscape, very prolific in point of numbers, but marked by strong mannerisms, and relying, in many cases, upon very tricky effects of colouring. Figure subjects are abundant, but with few exceptions are below mediocrity; whilst good technical painting in either or any branch of the art is extremely rare. The number of exhibitors and of contributions are both less than they were last year; among the former, however, Mr. G. Pettitt and Mr. C. W. Noble, of the Society of British Artists, must be deemed to be acquisitions. We proceed to enumerate the few instances of works which are raised above the ordinary dead level of insignificance.

Meg Merrilies and the Dying Smuggler (132), R. S. Lauder, R.S.A. This is one of the most pretentious figure subjects in the collection. Whatever Mr. Lauder's deficiencies may be, he generally succeeds in embodying on his canvases some original conception, which he treats in a bold and ambitious style of composition, and with a taste in colouring quite peculiar to himself, and which is inconsistent either with traditional usage or with ordinary natural appearances. In this instance, the figure of *Meg Merrilies* is founded much more upon Mr. Lauder's invention than upon Scott's; but every spectator must be struck with the startling amount of concentrated expression

imparted to the features of the gipsy woman. Where Mr. Lauder got the original of such an awfully witch-like stony face it is difficult to fancy; it is worthy of a follower of Michael Angelo or of a student of Dante. Beyond this, however, there is little or nothing in the group. The body of the smuggler in the foreground is not so perfect in its foreshortening as not to suggest the awkwardness or impossibility of its resting in that position, and all the rest of the scene is indistinctly conceived, and painted with a perfectly arbitrary distribution of light, shade, and colour. How much is lost by indifference and neglect of the simple laws of composition in paintings of this class it is difficult to over-estimate. Their presence is unnoticed, and it is only by their absence that their indispensable value is ascertained. Mr. Lauder's other picture, *The Death of Arthur* (286), from *King John*, is inferior to the former in power of expression, and fails to excite the imagination. A mere strutting attitude, a scowl of the features, and the usual amount of armour and weapons, are not sufficient to call to life the redoubtable and fiery Faulconbridge.

Out of respect to the memory of the late Mr. R. R. M'lan, a scene by him is here exhibited, representing *Highlanders secreting Arms* (274). The rocks that form the background of this subject are sombre and rugged to the last degree, and a melancholy tone of colour pervades the picture.

From the above productions of members of the Scottish Academy the descent is rapid. Mr. W. Underhill contributes a group of children, under the name of *The Mountain Stream* (87), rather tame in colour, but in other respects natural and pleasing. In the same school is the subject of *The Stepping Stones* (254), by Mr. Fred. Underhill, and the *Harvester's Repast* (462), both in a style which is familiar to every frequenter of our galleries, and which never attains a more than moderate amount of strength of conception or brightness of colouring.

Mr. H. Stacy Marks' figures, as on former occasions, will not fail to attract the most careless eye. His vein of solemn farce, of comedy in quaint attire, of sly fun in pre-Raffaellite housings and trappings, is not yet worked out. We have here *Puritan Barracks* (48), the scene being the aisle of some cathedral, despoiled of its stained glass windows, and desecrated by the presence of a Roundhead, who smokes a pipe by way of theological protest, and as a proof of his release from spiritual bondage. *Returning from the Conventicle* (69) shows more skill of treatment in the gait of the figure, which is consistent entirely with the expression of features, the dress, and the ostentatiously carried Bible; Mr. Marks is quite a dramatist in his treatment of these figures. *Christopher Sly* (299) involves less characteristic treatment, but is quite as successful as an exhibition of humour.

Mr. Rossiter, whose attempts in the pre-Raffaellite manner have been remarkable on former occasions, has this year followed up the course which he prescribed by his *Dame Margery* of last year, and has, we think with great judgment, adopted a less mannered and more natural style of composition. *The Fair Precisian* (95) is one of the most charming instances of its class, promising a future of great success to Mr. Rossiter. *Modern Minstrelsy* (321) is another of these attempts.

Mr. W. M. Egley contributes a number of his elegant subjects, two of which, *The First Pantomime* (11), and *Molière reading one of his Plays to his Housekeeper* (317), are of trifling dimensions. *The Taming of the Shrew* (307) is the subject which deserves most consideration, for its careful composition and firm though hard manner of painting. The chandelier of quaint form, and other articles of furniture in this apartment, have been well selected from unusual sources, and some peculiarities in the headress of *Katharine* show the diligence of the painter's research.

Next may be mentioned the lively, sketchy, variegated groups of Mr. D. Pasmore, which make up in number and in prettiness of scattered lights for studied composition. Picturesqueness and profusion are the sole aim of the painter, who would perhaps be puzzled to explain some of the par-

ticulars of his subjects, as, for instance, where the staircase leads to in the interior (388), called *The Arrival of the Guests*. Yet the figures are inserted with clever facility, and the scene is in itself complete. There is another charming *Interior at Acerington* (315). *May* (279) is a gay composition, where everything else is sacrificed to the single idea of brilliancy and sparkle.

Finally, we may enumerate Mr. Noble's picture without a name (433); *A Water Carrier* (139), by J. H. S. Mann; three small figures of *A Pilot, A Fisherman, and A Fishwoman*, of Cullercoats (251 to 353), by T. Morten; a clever group of two figures, called *Our Pifferaro in Difficulties* (327), by J. G. Hodgson; a scene representing a rustic family engaged in playing at draughts, called *The Allies Defeated* (522), full of simplicity and natural grace of expression; and *The Refreshing Draught* (519), by J. T. Heron, an excellent study in the French school of Frère and others, of which we have lately seen so many admirable specimens. Miss G. Hunter's picture, representing *Children left to Dress Themselves* (526), will find numberless lady admirers, and is designed with great ingenuity and humour. Mr. J. D. Wingfield's *Painter's Studio* (120) must surely have been exhibited already. A showy academical head of *Judith Escaping with the Head of Holofernes* (45), by J. G. Naish, is conspicuous rather than attractive. Close observation of nature, and great truth of rendering, may be noticed in the head of the *East Indian Officer's Servant* (1), by A. Wivell. Close beneath, the figure of the girl, called *Our Topsy* (6), by J. Collinson, deserves a passing notice.

As we have already said, the landscapes take the lead in this collection, and among them none are superior in importance to the works of Mr. Sidney Percy. In *The Vale of Ffestiniog* (82), is a remarkable exhibition of aerial effects, and of sunlight alternating with showers; and of the same class are the Welsh scenes (135 and 290). In the latter case, the whole landscape is steeped in the red light of sunset, with an effect that is rather forced than natural. In all these grand and highly artistic works it is impossible to get over the gloss and glitter of mere technical dexterity. Of precisely the same school, and of equal, or perhaps, in some points, higher rank, are the landscapes of Mr. A. W. Williams. On the *Welsh Hills* (44), is one of the most conspicuous of them; *A Tranquil Eve* (343) asserts its immediate pre-eminence; and *Haymaking* (466) is of the same class. In each of these paintings the treatment of the clouds has been studied with great care—whether at a distance, or as a dense mass of vapour filling the atmosphere close at hand.

As an instance of a picture which bears internal evidence of having been closely studied from nature, *A Salmon Trap—Evening* (262), by J. W. Oakes, deserves particular notice. No one who looks at this can doubt for a moment that every object in the scene had its original in the landscape that was spread before the painter's eye; that the intricacies of the weir and the dike were just as the spectator sees them, and the bank on the right was clothed with precisely the same materials that are here represented. This is one of the most carefully painted pictures in the collection, and deserves the utmost praise, for the amount of conscientious labour bestowed, and the forcible result produced.

Another of the gems of the exhibition is a small picture called *Haymaking in Switzerland* (66), by H. Moore. The cattle are painted with an evident reference to the style which Mdlle. Rosa Bonheur has made so popular, but they are well done; the peasants, both as to figures and dresses, are natural and forcible, and the landscape, blue and dreamy, forms an admirable background. Among a mass of tiresome repetitions and conventionalities these rare exceptions are a relief and charm to the eye.

A Mountain Mirror (70), and *The Mountain of Buttermere* (50*), by Mr. G. Pettitt, are fine vigorous renderings of the slate-coloured rocks and lowering skies of Wales. All poetical imagery and allegorical fancies are absent from these studies;

but they are not the less impressive and striking to the imagination.

Mr. Haye's marine views exhibit all the freshness and gaiety which are peculiar to them. The wind seems to blow and the sea to roll through his canvases amidst a crowd of interesting objects and bright colours—*Wind on Shore, Yarmouth* (22), and *Signal of Distress* (413), are instances.

A landscape by J. Peel, the result of careful study, exhibits, along with much excellent painting, the faults which have been before noticed, of disconnected and straggling composition. The materials of the *Coast Scene, Isle of Arran* (128), are sufficient to make two good pictures; but the various parts seem to have no connexion with each other or with the whole.

We may notice also among the promising landscapes, Mr. J. S. Raven's *The Merry Merry Month of May* (246), Mr. F. W. Hulme's *Stepping Stones at Bettes* (296), and an excellent *Common near Crayford* (303), and Mr. Dearnley's studies (37, 256, and 414). Mrs. Oliver is also successful in the small view, *Pomeroy, on the Moselle* (289), more so perhaps than in the larger scene *Near Pheffes, Switzerland* (331). A view in *Essex* (443), by J. E. Meadows, *At Hampstead Heath* (476), by L. Walter, *On the Welsh Hills* (489), and others, by C. E. Leslie, and *Cumberland Scenery* (523), by B. Shipman, are removed from the rest by some peculiar merits. In fruit, Mr. Duffield bears off the palm; and two or three portraits may be noticed, among them, one of the late Mr. G. A. A'Beckett, by Charles Couzens, and a clever likeness of Mrs. J. D. Harding (316), by Bell Smith.

In the Water-Colour department of the collection, a figure of a girl peeling an apple (170), by G. Smallfield, is a close and not unsuccessful imitation of Hunt, and there are some nice sketches by J. M. Ince and T. R. Macquoid.

But the leading attraction in this branch is a collection of figure sketches by a lady, Miss E. P. Murray, whose address is at the British Consulate, Tenerife. Her figures are instances of spirited drawing, and of unusual skill in arresting peculiarities of feature and costume, and they are coloured with the freedom, breadth, and facility, which are unmistakable signs of natural talent. The portrait of *Dacia, a Descendant of the Gunches* (223), and the scene called *The Flower of the Day* (218), will speak for themselves. A new star has certainly made its appearance on the art horizon in the person of Miss E. P. Murray.

We have only to add that the catalogue on this occasion abounds with omissions and errors, and is far from being creditable to the arrangements of the Institution.

On Thursday night, Lord St. Leonard's brought before the House of Lords his long-announced statement relative to the Turner bequest of pictures to the nation. The elaborate description entered into by his lordship of the conflicting dispositions made by Turner at different periods of his life, is sufficient to convince most people that the nearest approach to Turner's real wishes could be attained by what was actually effected—viz., a compromise of the suit in Chancery.

We are unable this week to do more than record the death of Mr. R. Cook, the Royal Academician, which took place in Great Cumberland-street, Hyde Park, on Wednesday, the 11th March, in the 75th year of his age.

The celebrated Amazon group of Kiss has now for some years adorned the eastern steps of the Berlin Museum, whilst the western stairs have remained, and indeed to the present day still remain, devoid of any ornament. This defect is, however, soon to be remedied, and Herr Albert Wolff is about to fill the vacant pedestal with his magnificent group of the *Lion Slayer*. The hero of Wolff's group is a huntsman in the full pride of his youth and glory of his strength, confident in the superiority of man even over the king of beasts; he has sought out his enemy, and hurls him bleeding at his feet. The youth, who is naked, managing his magnificent horse with one hand, forces him amongst the very

limbs of his prostrate foe, and with the other hand brandishes on high the uplifted javelin. The king of the forest, fallen and wounded, but still not vanquished, strikes with its upraised paw, as it lies on its side, at the belly of the horse. Both horse and rider are beautifully executed,—they seem actuated by one feeling, guided by one will, and the same indomitable courage and impetuous movement appears to direct the actions of both, whilst the lion retains its fierceness and hatred in the death-struggle. The group, which is twice the size of life, is a worthy pendant to Professor Kiss's *Amazon*, and fully sustains the reputation of Albert Wolff, one of the most celebrated of the veteran Ranch's pupils.

The Emperor of Austria has ordered that the cartoon of *Apollo and the Nine Muses*, by Appiani, which has long been laid by in the Ambrosian library, in Milan, should now be purchased at the expense of the state, and placed in the gallery of the Brera. He has also directed that a suitable pedestal should be provided for the beautiful bronze statue of Napoleon which was executed by Canova. This statue has for many years lain thoroughly neglected and almost forgotten; it is now, by the Emperor of Austria's orders, to be placed in the public gardens of Milan.

The Government of Cassel, or rather the Elector, who is in himself the Government, and who exercises his petty tyranny on all conceivable occasions, has forbidden the collection in the Electorate of Hesse of funds for the erection of a monument to Luther in the Cathedral of Worms.

Professor Lessing, of Düsseldorf, is now occupied on a large picture, which has been ordered by the King of Prussia. The subject is the seizing of Pope Pasqual by the order of the Emperor Henry the Fifth. There are in the picture eighteen figures of the size of life.

A rich collection of drawings, full of cleverness and spirit, by the late Professor Krüger, of Berlin, have been discovered in his studio. It is the intention of the Prussian government to set apart a room in the Museum, to be called the Krüger-room, which is to be adorned with frescoes and arabesques taken from a selection of these beautiful studies.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE production of *Richard II.* at the Princess's Theatre is in a great measure exempt from the objections we have frequently urged against Mr. Kean's Shakspearian revivals. The play is in some sort a dramatic chronicle, traversing a long succession of events, and unfolding a panorama of the life and manners of that remote period of our history, when Chaucer wrote his *Canterbury Tales*, and Wickliffe made the first English translation of the Bible. It includes a term of two years, embracing the banishment of *Bolingbroke*, the Irish war, the death of *John of Gaunt*, the return of *Bolingbroke*, the deposition of *Richard*, and the murder of the deposed sovereign in prison. We have here a series of progressive incidents rather than a plot with a strong individual or pervading interest; but Shakspeare with his unflinching art has contrived, by opening with the banishment of *Bolingbroke*, and terminating with the tremendous revenge he takes upon the monarch who in his person had violated the rights of the nobility, to impart to these scattered materials a distinct unity of design. The narrative character of the chronicle, however, is felt in the structure, and still more in the poetical treatment, which abounds in descriptive passages, and is rhymed nearly all throughout, a peculiarity which, supported by other circumstances, may warrant us in placing the piece amongst the earliest of Shakspeare's productions. It is highly probable, although Malone and others assign it to a later date, that *Richard II.* preceded *Henry IV.* in fact as it does in chronology. A play of this class, in which the interest is not concentrated upon the development of a great passion, or the working out of a single purpose, but spread over a wide surface, fairly admits of that mode of presentation on the stage which Mr. Kean has in this instance very

successfully adopted. The scenes are painted with consummate artistic skill, and are so subdued in tone that they never intrude upon the attention, but, on the contrary, materially assist the audience to realize the conception of the age intended to be conveyed by the poet. The difference between the scenery of *Richard II.* as it is presented by Mr. Charles Kean, and that of the *Richard II.* in which we remember to have seen his father, is simply the difference between the random guesses, or sheer invention, of the stage artists, and actual studies of the places set down in the play. The audience undoubtedly profit by this exchange of the true for the suppositious. The Privy Council Chamber at Westminster, the lists at Coventry, with the gallery overlooking them, filled by the court and the nobility, the old castles of Flint and Pembroke restored, Traitor's Gate, as it may still be seen at the Tower, and the Duke of York's garden at Langley, are here brought before the eyes of the spectators, and being very excellent and effective scenes in themselves, in no way overpowering the course of the action, which they serve to illustrate and animate rather than to eclipse, they are clearly preferable to the conventional pictures which have usually done duty on these and fifty similar occasions. So long as scenic beauty is thus made strictly subservient to the higher business of the drama, aiding and not overwhelming it, we shall be as ready as the most ardent of Mr. Kean's admirers to recognise and applaud his efforts; but it is hardly necessary to say that we shall always visit with just critical censure the slightest departure from the principle which asserts the supremacy of the poet over his agents—the painters, the actors, the property-men, and the tailors. Such a deviation is committed in the historical episode introduced by Mr. Charles Kean between the third and fourth acts of this play. It represents the entry of *Bolingbroke* into London, upon "a real horse," followed by *Richard* drooping over the back of another. The scene is a point in the streets of old London, from whence two diverging vistas are visible; the windows of the houses are filled with gazers, and the balconies hung with tapestry, and crowded with eager groups in their holiday costume. In the streets below, a tumultuous multitude are assembled, entertaining themselves with popular sports, such as the tumbling of athletes, and the dance of itinerant fools; when presently comes a procession of the City companies, with the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs at its head, preliminary to the approach of *Bolingbroke*. The acclamations of the people upon the appearance of the hero of the day, who is shortly to become their king, and the scorn and loathing with which they treat the weak and vacillating *Richard*, now broken down by calamity and grief, give surprising vivacity and reality to the scene, which, regarded as a spectacle apart from the play, is composed and produced with a completeness of effect that has rarely been reached upon the stage, and, perhaps, never transcended. But the careful student of Shakspeare asks upon what ground, other than that of show and managerial expediency, is such an interpolation inserted in the work of our great dramatist? That it is the grand point of attraction in the revival, and will draw crowds to the theatre, is obvious already; but we venture to submit to the common sense of the public, that a better reason should be assigned for meddling with the play as Shakspeare wrote it, and clearly designed that it should be acted. Mr. Charles Kean, indeed, does assign another reason for its introduction. He tells us, in his published edition of the play, that "the historical episode is introduced for the purpose of exhibiting in action what is described by the *Duke of York* to his duchess in the fifth act;" but surely the fact that the *Duke of York* describes the scene to his duchess is the most conclusive of all conceivable reasons why Mr. Kean should not have exhibited it in action. If Shakspeare intended it to be exhibited in action, he never would have consigned it to a description. He never describes what can or ought to be put into action; and the effect of acting it first, as it is done at the Princess's, and describing it afterwards, is to impose upon

Shakspeare an offence against high art of which there is not a solitary example throughout his entire works.

With this exception, the representation is entitled to unmixed approbation. The archaeological knowledge which has been brought to bear upon the play leaves nothing to be desired. The costumes are in perfect taste, and as accurate as the architecture and the heraldic blazonry; and the whole is so complete, that the age may be said to live again in its picturesque costliness and its quaint modes during the three hours and a half occupied by the performance.

In adapting the old play to the stage, Mr. Kean has made some omissions, which not only involve the plot in obscurity, but cast superfluous odium on the character and motives of *Richard*. The principal and most objectionable of these omissions is that of the entire of the last scene of the first act, which is essential to the just appreciation of much that ensues. In this important scene we have an account of *Bolingbroke's* crafty "courtship of the common people," foreshadowing in some degree his future course; and here, too, we hear for the first time of the Irish rebellion, which imposes upon the king the necessity of raising immediate funds, thus supplying him with an excuse for afterwards seizing upon the coffers of *John of Gaunt*, for whose death the audience is prepared by the announcement of his illness. The omission of this scene exhibits the king in a false light when he subsequently appropriates to the public service the plate and movables of his kinsman, who is made, for the sake of a scenic effect, to die upon the stage instead of in an adjoining chamber. The abruptness of the transition from the lists of the first act to the death-bed of the second, shatters that continuity of design which we find in the original. The omission of the first scene of the third act is equally fatal to the sympathy intended to be created on behalf of *Richard*. Wanting this scene, in which *Bushy* and *Green* are sent out to execution, we cannot sufficiently perceive or comprehend the subsequent desolation of the king. The consequence is, that the character itself is left in a state of imperfect development.

Of the acting there is not much to be said. Mr. Walter Lacy's *John of Gaunt* was carefully rendered, and Mr. Ryder's *Bolingbroke*, was abundantly effective, but over-vehement at times, and deficient in skilful delineation of the minuter traits of character. Mr. Kean's *Richard* conveyed no distinct impression of any kind;—it was cold, declamatory, and spasmodic by turns, and utterly wanting in clearness of conception. The small part of the *Queen* was very touchingly played by Mrs. Kean.

Mr. Lumley's programme of the season at Her Majesty's Theatre, which is to commence on Easter Tuesday, the 14th of April, confirms the expectations raised by the rumours of engagements that had been effected. Madame Alboni and Mademoiselle Piccolomini return to the scene of their last year's triumphs, and two new *prime donne* will make their first appearance in this country—Madame Spezia, who comes with a high reputation in the loftier representations of the lyric drama, and Mademoiselle Ortolani, who excels in characters of lighter mood. The new tenor, Signor Antonio Gugliani, is to make his *début* on the opening night of the season, when he will appear along with Madame Spezia in *La Favorita*, and thus at once challenge comparison with the artists that have long been the established favourites of the musical world of London. Signor Vialletti, of Milan, is announced as a new *basso profundo*. Signors Belletti, Beneventano, and Rossi, with other principal singers of last season, remain on the list of performers. No new opera is promised; but among the announcements of works to be produced, the most important is that of *Don Giovanni*, with a strength of cast and arrangement of detail of which for some years Mozart's *chef d'œuvre* has not had the advantage. Piccolomini, Spezia, and Ortolani will sustain the parts of *Donna Anna*, *Donna Elvira*, and *Zerlina*. The ballet department will

have unusual prominence. Marie Taglioni is to appear in a new ballet composed especially for her by her father; Rosati is to take the principal part in a divertissement founded on the ballet *Marco Spada*, adapted from their opera by MM. Auber and Scribe for the French Académie; and a new danseuse, Mademoiselle Pocchini, is to open the ballet season in *La Esmeralda*. Signor Bonetti reserves his post as director and conductor of the music, the orchestra having been reinforced by several Italians of high name in their own country. With these announcements, there is every prospect of a brilliant and successful season at Her Majesty's Theatre.

A proposition has been made by the German Handel Society, to publish a perfect collection of Handel's works. The project has been warmly supported by the Duke of Gotha and Coburg, and the names of a hundred subscribers have already been received. The works are to be published in score, with pianoforte accompaniments to the songs; the original text is to be preserved, but a German translation given at the same time. Three volumes are to appear annually—viz., one opera, one oratorio, and one volume of instrumental compositions or separate songs. It is estimated that of these last there will be twelve volumes, besides twenty-eight volumes of oratorios and twenty of operas. The price is ten thalers a year, to be paid every six months; as soon as they have amounted to a sum sufficient to give a fair promise of success, the publication will commence, and the first subscription will be called for. MM. Härtel and Breitkopf, of Leipzig, have undertaken the duties of treasurer and publisher.

Herr Von Flotow's new opera is taken from the life of Chancellor Andreas Mylius, who lived in the time of John Albert, and the text is written by G. Holbein. It contains a number of songs in the Low German or Platt language, and will be produced at the Royal Theatre of Schwerin, about the end of May.

Signora Ristori has quitted Trieste, where she performed several times to full but not overflowing houses on her journey northwards.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—*March 12th.*—General Sabine, Treasurer and V.-P., in the chair. A paper was read 'On Sea Sawdust,' by Mr. Macdonald, Surgeon to H.M.'s Surveying Ship *Herald*. After observing that floating fields of minute algae were seen by Cook and subsequent voyagers in the South Pacific, he states that he found it difficult to determine whether the species which he saw in the Pacific is to be referred to the Oscillatoridæ or to the Convolvadæ. In the latter a linear series of tubular cells compose the filaments, which are said to be jointed; but in the former, although the filaments are tubular, simple, and continuous, without actual joints, a pseudo-jointed appearance is presented by the apposition of little masses of colouring matter. Notwithstanding that the author submitted the 'Sea sawdust' of the Pacific to microscopical examination on several occasions, he is much inclined to believe that the filaments are actually jointed; and this view is supported by the circumstance that an empty tubule, or one in which the parietes may be traced continuously without being interrupted by joints or internal septa, has never fallen under his notice; besides which, the filaments are exceedingly brittle, usually suffering cleavage in the transverse direction. It, however, undoubtedly belongs to the Oscillatoridæ. When the filaments are first removed from the water, they may be observed adhering side by side in little bundles or fasciculi; and besides the colouring matter, the little cells, or at least the intervals between the septa, contain globules of air, which sufficiently account for their buoyancy; and, moreover, in this respect, although their abiding place is the open ocean, their habit can scarcely be regarded as very different from that of those species which flourish in damp localities exposed to the atmosphere. The filaments are all very short com-

pared with their diameter, with rounded extremities, and when immersed some little time in fluid, so that the contained air bubbles make their escape, or are taken up, the pale colouring matter appears to fill the cells completely, and a central portion, a little darker than the rest, may be distinctly perceived in each compartment, intersected by a very delicate transverse partition. The author found this species off the coast of Australia and in Moreton Bay. He has also found it among the Polynesian Islands, and on two separate occasions off the Loyalty group, in nearly the same geographical position.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—*March 6th.*—The Hon. R. Neville, Vice-President, in the chair. A letter was received from Mr. Wardell, of Leeds, accompanying a collection of the fictitious weapons of flint obtained in Yorkshire, the fabrication of which in the East Riding of Yorkshire has recently excited much attention amongst antiquaries. The author of these forgeries, he observed, is supposed to be a person living on the moors near Whithy; they are sold for very small prices. Mr. Wardell had seen hammers or axes, arrow-heads, rings, fish-hooks, knives and saws of flint, and some objects like catclips. Some fictitious antiquities of bronze had also been produced at Scarborough. A communication was read from the Rev. Dr. McCaul, President of University College, Toronto, in reference to the inscription lately found at Bath, and published in the *Archæological Journal*. Mr. Hunter had referred it to M. Aurelius, whilst Dr. Bruce and other antiquaries had assigned this tablet to the reign of Heliogabalus. Dr. McCaul stated the grounds of his belief that the emperor named in the inscription is Caracalla, and cited a remarkable military inscription on the Appian Way in illustration. Mr. Burges read a memoir on the precious objects preserved in the Treasury at Monza, and regarded as having been given to that church by Queen Theodelinda, who espoused Antharic, King of the Lombards, in 589, and after his death remarried Agilolphus, Duke of Turin. She built and endowed richly the church of the Baptist at Monza, to which also many precious gifts were sent by Pope Gregory the Great. Mr. Burges, the talented and successful competitor for the design of the great English church to be erected at Constantinople, had recently, in the course of his studies in Italy, been permitted to make careful drawings of several unpublished reliques of the pious Lombard Queen preserved at Monza, and these were exhibited to the Institute, comprising the richly jewelled comb, and the fan, or *flabellum*, of purple parchment, with remarkable inscriptions, presented by Theodelinda to the church, as also the curious hen and chickens, of silver gilt, supposed to have been a symbolical allusion to the Queen and the various states under her rule. The Rev. Dr. Roch, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Westwood offered some remarks on these remarkable objects, and on the other precious treasures at Monza, and Dr. Roch described a silver reliquary of large dimensions at Padua, an example of the richest mediæval work hitherto unnoticed. It was suggested that a most valuable and instructive exemplification of mediæval art might be formed by means of photographs of such works preserved on the Continent. The Rev. W. Hastings Kelke communicated an account of "Creslow Pastures, Bucks, the royal feeding-ground for cattle, from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to that of Charles II., and of the descent of the manor, the desecrated church of Creslow, and the ancient manor-house, which presents some architectural features of interest. Creslow, now containing a single dwelling-house, is a distinct parish, situated about six miles from Aylesbury, and as early as Domesday the lands appear to have been chiefly pasturage. Browne, Willis, and other topographers, have stated on no sufficient authority that the manor and avowson had belonged, from a very early period, to the Templars, and subsequently to the Hospitallers. At the Dissolution they were in the possession of the latter, and passed from the Hospitallers to the crown, when the celebrated "Creslow Pastures"

were appropriated for feeding cattle for the royal household, and were committed to the custody of a steward or keeper for a term of years. In 1596, James Quarles, Esq., chief clerk of the kitchen, was keeper, and was succeeded by Bennett Mayne, who enjoyed the mansion and a considerable portion of the lands in recompense for his trouble. In 1634 the appointment was given by Charles I. to Cornelius Holland, originally a page of Sir Henry Vane's, who had risen to notice about the court, and received many lucrative appointments, as related by a contemporary, whose account of Holland may be seen in Mr. Banke's story of Corfe Castle. Holland allowed the buildings to fall to decay, but he obtained a large grant from Parliament for their repair, and became a member of the Commons, and Commissioner of the Revenue. He signed the death warrant of Charles I. The desecration of the churches of Creslow and Hogshaw, Bucks, and of the chancels of three other churches, was perpetrated by this enemy to church and state, who at the Restoration was attained of high treason, and the pastures were granted by Charles II. to Edward Backwell, Esq., for twenty-one years. The estate was subsequently granted in fee to Thomas Lord Clifford. The advowson, Mr. Kelke observed, had belonged to the Hospitallers, and in the times of Queen Elizabeth the rectorial income appears to have become merged in the temporalities of the manor. The church has been long since desecrated, and converted into a stable and dovecote by Cornelius Holland. The present remains comprise the nave, which seems to be of Norman date, with a richly sculptured north door. The manor-house, a picturesque and spacious building, with a square tower and numerous gables, is noticed in the 'Manual of Domestic Architecture,' published by Mr. Parker, as an example of the reign of Edward III. It has a large hall, a crypt excavated in the limestone rock, with a good vaulted roof. It has been supposed to have been the commandery of the Hospitallers. Mr. Kelke exhibited drawings of this interesting building, and of the adjacent desecrated church; and he intimated his intention of publishing a detailed account of Creslow in the Transactions of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. The Rev. H. Maclean gave a short notice of the recent discovery of some remarkable Saxon remains in the north of Lincolnshire, in the neighbourhood of a site where it has been supposed that a conflict occurred in 827 between Egbert and the Mercians, and that the slain had been interred on the field of battle. Mr. Neville exhibited a massive Irish ornament of gold found at Killymoone, county Tyrone. Mr. Hunter brought some knives of the same period as the reliquie of Milton produced at the previous meeting, and supplying a confirmation of the belief of its having been of the times of the poet. He produced also a brass ball, probably a *pomme chauffette*, such as were anciently in use for warming the hands, or for burning perfumes. Mr. Fitch sent a beautiful little fibula, of Roman work, found in the camp at Caister, and a brass seal lately added to his rich cabinet of Norfolk antiquities. Mr. Whincopp exhibited a collection of rings of gold and silver, found in Suffolk and other localities; also a gold ornament set with an hemispherical crystal, through which is seen a delicately painted miniature of the flagellation of Our Lord. Mr. Morgan brought a numerous collection of papal and other ecclesiastical rings, chiefly of the fifteenth century. Mr. Dodd exhibited two miniatures, Queen Mary and Elizabeth, productions of the art of their times. Mr. Hawkins brought two curious weapons found on the site now occupied by the clock tower at Westminster, and disinterred at a great depth. The Rev. T. Hugo exhibited a beautiful Saxon brooch found in the Thames. A series of beautiful drawings of the chief collegiate buildings in Oxford, by Mackenzie, was contributed by Mr. Le Keux; and an ancient tripod vessel of bronze, found in Merionethshire, was brought by Mr. W. Wynne, M.P.; and several drawings, illustrating certain curious remains recently destroyed near Homerton, were sent by Mr. T. Wyatt. At the meeting in April, Mr. Kelke will give an account of some early British

remains near Drayton-Beauchamp, Bucks, and of the great camp known as Chouletbury, on the Chiltern Hills. The annual meeting of the Institute, to be held at Chester, will take place about the middle of July; preparations are already in forwardness, and the ancient refectory of the monastery has been appropriated for the local museum.

LINNEAN.—March 3rd.—Prof. Bell, President, in the chair. A. Newton, Esq., M.A., and the Rev. H. B. Tristram, M.A., were elected Fellows. G. Bentham, Esq., exhibited a specimen of *Orchis pyramidalis*, whose flowers were destitute of a spur; it was found growing in Wales together with the common spurred form of the plant. Also specimens of *Cardamine hirsuta*, communicated by Miss Llewellyn, of Penleare, which bore young plants on the surface of the leaves. The following papers were read:—1. 'A Synopsis of the genus *Clitoria*,' by G. Bentham, Esq. This paper was prefaced by remarks upon the structure and affinities of the genus, and of some allied Leguminosæ, including a discussion on the value of the generic characters afforded by the pod. Amongst other points dwelt upon was the singular fact of one very conspicuous Mexican and South United States species of the genus having been found in Birma, by Dr. Wallich, and on the tops of the Khasia mountains, in East Bengal, by Drs. Hooker and Thomson, but nowhere else in the Old World. 2. The first of a series of papers, entitled 'Precursores ad Floram Indicam,' by Dr. J. D. Hooker and Dr. T. Thomson. The authors commenced by stating, that having been obliged to suspend the publication of the 'Flora of British India,' of which they had published one volume, they proposed to present to the Linnean Society succinct accounts of the several natural orders upon which that flora was to have been founded. The collection from which these materials are to be drawn was stated to be at Kew, where it forms a portion of the Hookerian Herbarium, and is by far the largest Indian Herbarium in the world, consisting of upwards of 12,000 species and 300,000 specimens, and including selections from every collection that has been made in India during the last hundred years. The authors have been engaged in the naming and arranging of this gigantic *hortus siccus* for six years, and are continuing their labours, during the progress of which a great deal of useful and novel information upon all branches of botanical science is being accumulated. It is proposed (pending the resumption of the 'Flora Indica') to publish this information under a *catalogue raisonné* of the Indian flora. Such a catalogue would, the authors hoped, supply several great desiderata in botany, including a sketch of the extent, affinities, and distribution of one of the largest and richest floras of the globe. Amongst the general remarks which opened the paper, was a discussion "upon the principles upon which genera should be founded"—a subject to which the authors have devoted great attention, and in the consideration of which they had been aided by Mr. Bentham, who enjoys a very high European reputation for the judgment and accuracy he has displayed as a systematic botanist, and especially in the construction of genera. The authors were indebted to Mr. Bentham for drawing up the concise statement, which they read to the Society, of the views which they held in common upon this important subject, which, owing to the excessive and useless multiplication of generic names lately introduced into the science, was one that appeared to them to demand immediate attention. The following is a summary of their conclusions:—The systematist has two objects always in view—the classification of animals and plants into successive groups; and the fixing upon certain stages of these groups to which names should be attached for the purpose of reference, &c. Linneus created the language of botany, grouping plants into natural divisions, called species and genera, and the latter under artificial orders, and these under artificial classes. Jussieu, availing himself of Linneus' genera and species, carried the principle much further, group-

ing the genera under natural orders, and these under natural classes; hence the universally adopted practice, approved of in theory by every naturalist, of regarding genera as the prominent groups, and giving them substantive names, adding an adjective adjunct for the species, and using substantively-taken adjectives for the orders under which the genera are grouped. It soon, however, became apparent that intermediate groups, as natural and well-defined as the above, could be made, and that these were often necessary for scientific purposes which has given rise to two very different modes of proceeding. Some naturalists keep the genera and orders already constructed, or modify them but slightly, adding new ones to them when necessary, and calling the intermediate groups, sub-orders, sub-genera, sections, &c., with substantive names for the convenience of those working into details; other subdivide the original genera, call the lowest group of species a genus, name it, and attempt to force the name into ordinary botanical language. The authors consider the first method as the only one that can save botany from relapsing into a pre-Linnean chaos, and strongly insist upon the necessity of keeping the generic term large; for without a language no science can be worked, and if the ordinary language of botany is to be indefinitely increased, it will obviously be impossible to acquire it in a human lifetime. The authors thus regard the subject in a practical point of view only; they do not enter into the much vexed question of whether genera are natural or artificial, for they treat them as neither more nor less natural than the groups above or below them, and look upon them as groups which must, for scientific purposes, be universally known amongst botanists, but whose value is not affected by the accident of having a substantive name attached to them, and the title of Genus prefixed.

R. S. OF LITERATURE.—March 4th.—Benjamin Austen, Esq., in the chair. The Rev. Robert Ferguson and the Rev. Mr. Dale were elected Members. Mr. Oldfield read a paper 'On the Collection of Antiquities lately bequeathed to the British Museum by the Honourable Sir William Temple.' Sir William Temple was for many years Her Majesty's Minister at the Neapolitan Court, during which period he availed himself of the advantages of position, wealth, and leisure, to bring together a very valuable selection from almost every class of the monuments of ancient art to be found in Central and Southern Italy. This collection, at his decease in 1856, has passed by his munificent bequest to the British Museum, where, before long, it will be opened for public view. It is proposed for the present to keep it together, though ultimately it will be necessary to incorporate it with the other antiquities now in the Museum. The objects in the collection were discovered chiefly in the following localities. 1. Nola in Campania, whence were obtained the fictile vases of the style usually known as Phœnician, belonging to a period during which Nola was certainly under the Etruscan rule, and some beautiful specimens of the most advanced epoch of the art in the Fifth Century B.C. 2. Sta. Maria Maggiore, the Capua of Roman history, which under the name of Vulturum, was the metropolis of Southern Etruria previously to B.C. 423. Recent excavations in this neighbourhood, have yielded a rich store of terracottas, some ornaments in gold, now in the Museo Borbonico, and a magnificent archaic bronze vase, not long since acquired by the British Museum. The principal objects from this locality in the Temple collection are some specimens of Greek painted vases, with black figures on red grounds, belonging to the second period of the art, and most of them anterior to the Samnite conquest in B.C. 423. 3. Ruvo, the ancient Rubi, a place in Apulia Picentia, scarcely noticed in history, which has, however, singularly enough, yielded a richer produce of Greek artistic monuments than any place in Southern Italy, with the exception perhaps of Capua and Cumæ. Its vases of the fourth or florid period may, for size, decorative effect, and fulness

of pictorial illustration, he pronounced unrivalled except by a few of the same style from the neighbouring town of Canosa. The Temple collection has several fine specimens of these Ruvo vases, together with some Greek bronze armour, not merely of much beauty, but in some respects altogether new. 4. Canosa, the ancient Canusium, in Apulia Daunia, about six miles from the plain of Canne, from which place the Temple collection possesses two or three specimens of vases, late and somewhat fantastic in their shape, with decorations in polychrome painting, and figures and heads in terra-cotta attached. From this place many remarkable objects have been of late procured, especially the colossal vase of Darius, now in the museum of Naples, perhaps the most valuable relic of the art which has ever been brought to light. 5. Pompeii, which has enriched the present collection with a few specimens of bronzes, mural paintings, and the ware commonly known as Samian. From these five localities the largest proportion of objects has been procured. There are, however, some other sites, which have yielded rare and interesting remains. Among these are Cumæ, a very early Chalcidian colony, where extensive excavations have been lately conducted by H. R. H. the Count of Syracuse; Pozzuoli, the Dicaearchia of the Greeks, and Puteoli of the Romans, probably a Cumæan colony, which in the imperial times maintained extensive commercial relations with Egypt and Phœnicia; Bari, the ancient Barium, in Apulia; and Fasano, the Gnathia of Horace. From these places, the Temple collection possesses specimens of terra-cotta figures of the late Greek period, lamps and busts of the Roman times, and very beautiful vessels and other objects in glass. Some late vases have been also obtained from St. Elpidio (Atella), St. Agatha de' Goti (Saticola), and Anzi or Anxina, in the Basilicata. Mr. Oldfield's paper will be continued at a subsequent meeting of the Society.

ASIATIC.—*March 7th.*—Professor Wilson, President, in the chair. A donation from Major-General Bagnold, of several volumes of Persian MSS., was laid upon the table. Among them was a very old copy of the *Anwari Suhili*, dated A.H. 926 (A.D. 1519). The President read a paper relating to some supposed identifications that the scholars on the Continent had believed to exist in the Védas and the Zend writings, but from which the President said he must withhold his concurrence. The most interesting of these identifications was that between the Feridien of Persian fable, the destroyer of Zohak, and the Thraetæon, or Thretono, of the Zend Avesta. The Parsees have certainly considered the names to be the same, and the Sanscrit translator, Neriosengh, did not hesitate to render the name Phretun in his version. This Thretono was the destroyer of the murderous serpent, with three heads and six eyes, created by Abriman for the purpose of exterminating purity throughout the world. In one of the hymns of the Rig-Véda the name of Traitana occurs, which has been eagerly seized upon by the German Orientalists as another identification of Feridien. In these identifications the President demurred at the resemblance of the names; but even should this be admitted, he denied that there was any further analogy between the personages which could favour the hypothesis; and he proceeded to state shortly the legends attached to each, in order to support his views of the entire difference between them. Feridien was the son of Abtin, who had been killed by the tyrant Zohak, when his son was an infant. The child was bred in the mountains, and on reaching the age of manhood, he raised an army with the aid of the blacksmith Gava (query, the Celtic *gav*?) marched against Zohak; aided by magic, seized his throne, and shut him up in a cave, where he perished. Traitana, of the Rig-Véda, is named in a doubtful way, as a slave who smote his head, breast, and shoulders; and the commentator Sayana narrates a legend in which the said slave assaulted his master, the Rishi Dinghutamās, the author of the hymn, by striking him as above-

mentioned, and then, moved by remorse, inflicting the same injuries on himself. There is certainly little resemblance to be seen in the above tales; but the advocates of the analogy have extended their conjectures to the name of Trita, one of more frequent occurrence in the Védas. This personage, with his brothers Eka and Dwita, was travelling, according to one of these legends, with a number of cows. While resting at night, Trita saw a wolf, and being frightened, fell into a deep well, where his treacherous brothers left him to perish, carrying off the cows for themselves. Trita, in deep distress, with no means of making a sacrifice to the gods, who might have helped him, bethought himself of an imaginary sacrifice, which he duly performed, using the creeping plants which lined the well, and the sand at the bottom, instead of the real Soma plant and the stones required in a regular sacrifice. The gods were pleased at Trita's piety, and being at the same time fearful that he would create other gods in opposition to them, if they delayed their assistance, they proceeded to the well, and raised Trita out of his perilous condition, by causing the river Saraswati to run into it, and thus to float him to the surface. Trita then returned home, where he denounced the treachery of his brothers, and uttered an imprecation by which they were transformed to wolves. With so little in common between the Persian conqueror of Zohak, the destroyer of the three-headed serpent, and the Indian saint, the President thought that it would be evident that all the resemblance was *vox et præterea nihil*.

CHEMICAL.—*March 2nd.*—Dr. Miller, President, in the chair. Dr. Winstowe and Dr. Harley were elected Fellows. Dr. F. Dupré was elected an Associate. Professor Abel presented a report 'On Recent Patents connected with the Reduction and Purification of Iron, and its Conversion into Steel.' The author furnished a complete review of all the details and modifications of iron manufacture, and referred particularly to the recent proposals of Bessemer, Martin, Birch, and others, for effecting a complete or partial purification of the metal, by a current of air or steam, without the use of fuel; and also for recarbonising the iron, by the similar application of a current of carburated hydrogen. In reference to the consecutive action of air upon liquid iron, Professor Abel remarked, that of all foreign elements in the metal, the silicon was most readily and completely abstracted, both in the ordinary and in the newly proposed refinery processes. The primary effect of air, when passed into the fluid metal, is to oxidise a portion of the iron, the temperature of the mass being thereby raised and maintained; the silicon is simultaneously oxidated, and the graphite converted into carbide of iron, which last, after the attainment of a sufficiently high temperature, is decomposed by the air, and the carbon almost completely burnt off. It had been demonstrated by repeated experiments, that treatment with air alone did not remove the phosphorus, or sulphur, to any important extent, the abstraction of these elements requiring prolonged contact with such agents as oxide of iron, as in the ordinary puddling process. This last process is consequently the only effective plan of purifying iron; but the circumstance of its efficiency depending chiefly on the skill and industry of the workman, is alone sufficient to stimulate manufacturing energy to the production of a less laborious, more rapid, and equally efficacious method of freeing the metal from those foreign elements, whose presence detracts largely from its most valuable properties.

GEOLOGICAL.—*February 25th.*—L. Horner, Esq., V.-P., in the chair. J. Calvert, Esq., C.E., of Rosbrin Castle, co. Cork, was elected a Fellow. The following communications were read:—1. 'Notice of the late Earthquake at Crete.' By H. S. Ongley, Esq., H.M. Consul in Crete. From the Foreign Office. This was communicated in three dispatches relating to the occurrence of the earthquake in Crete, in October, 1856, accompanied with much destruction of property and loss of life

in Canea, Retimo, and the neighbouring villages. 2. 'Description of some remarkable Mineral Veins.' By Prof. D. T. Ansted, M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S. 1. San Fernando Copper Lode, Cuba. 2. Sykesville Copper Lodes, near Baltimore, U.S. 3. Ducktown Copper Lodes, in East Tennessee, U.S.

ANTIQUARIES.—*March 12th.*—Edward Hawkins, Esq., V.-P., in the chair. Mr. Jackson Howard exhibited the seal of Lady Alianora Lucy, wife of Sir Walter Lucy, of "Newinton," co. Kent, knight, appended to her letter of attorney, dated 17 December, 25 Henry VI., to deliver possession of tenements in the parish of St. Peter the Less, in "Thamystrete," to John Upton, John Byring, and John Luddeford, citizens of London. The reading of 'Lord Fauconberg's Relation of his Embassy to the States of Italy in the Year 1609,' was resumed and continued.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Geographical. (1. Journey in Persia, from Shiraz to Darab and Kazeran. By Mr. Consul K. E. Abbott. Communicated by the Earl of Clarendon. 2. Proposed Search for Leichhardt's Missing Party. By S. Sydney, Esq. 3. Return of the North Australian Expedition, under Mr. Gregory, to the East Coast. 4. Chronological Table of the Earthquakes in the West Indies, &c. 1. By M. André Poy, Director of the Meteorological Observatory at the Havana.) British Architects, 8 p.m.

Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Huxley on the Principles of Natural History.) Medical and Chirurgical, 8 p.m.

Wednesday.—Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Mr. Welling on the Nidification of the Wax-wing, the Lapland Owl, and Tengmuss Owl, with other papers.) Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Renewed Discussion on High-Speed Steam Navigation, &c.; and, if time permits, a paper will be read on the Permanent Way of the Bordeaux and Lyons Railway, across the Grandes Landes, by Mr. F. B. Conder, Assoc. Inst. C.E.) Meteorological, 7½ p.m.—General and Council. (On the Meteorology of Sinope, by Mr. Radcliffe. M. Poy, Director of the Observatory at Havana, on the Effects of Lightning in connexion with Photography; and Mr. Glaisher on the recent Hailstorms.)

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Mr. Christopher Dresser on a New System of Nature Printing.) Geological, 8 p.m.—(1. On some new species of Cephalopoda from the Upper Silurian Beds. By Sir P. Egerton, Bart., M.P., F.G.S. 2. On some Mastodon Bones from near the Lake Titicaca, in Chili. By W. J. Sollert, Esq. Communicated by Prof. Owen, F.G.S. 3. On some new Fossil Crustaceans from the Lias and the Bone-bed. By J. Gould, Esq. Communicated by J. W. Salter, Esq., F.G.S.) Archaeological, 8½ p.m.—(Mr. Syer Cuming on Ancient Spindles.)

Thursday.—Royal, 8½ p.m.

Royal Society Club, 6 p.m.

Antiquaries, 8 p.m.

Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(S.A. Hart, Esq., R.A., on Painting.) Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Sound.) Museum of Geology, 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen on Fossil Tertiary Mammals of Southern Asia.)

Friday.—Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(E. Warington, Esq., on the Aquarium.) Museum of Geology, 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen on Pliocene and Pleistocene Fossil Mammals of America.)

Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Phillips on the Limits of Variation in the State of the Globe—Geological Force and Time.) Medical, 8 p.m.

VARIETIES.

National Gallery of Ireland.—There seems to be a fair prospect of the establishment of this institution. The board has directed its attention to two objects—the erection of a suitable building on Leinster Lawn, for which a fund of 11,000*l.* has already been provided, and the creation of a fund to purchase works of art to exhibit permanently in the building when finished. The plans and estimates are in the hands of the building committee, with a view of entering into the necessary contracts, so that the ceremonial of laying the first stone will shortly take place. The building will correspond externally with the Museums of the Royal Dublin Society, now in course of erection on the south side of the Lawn, and form a corresponding wing to the main building on the opposite side. The "Picture Fund" is also progressing.—*Builder.*

Statue of Moore, the Poet.—The bronze statue, by Moore, the sculptor, of Thomas Moore, the poet, has arrived safely in Dublin. Early steps will be taken to have it placed in its designed locality, opposite the entrance of the House of Lords in College-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. W. W.; C. B.; C.; W. M. E. A Victim—received.

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25	1 13 10	1 19 3	50	4 0 9	4 10 7
30	2 4 0	2 10 4	60	6 1 0	6 7 4

ROBERT TUCKER, Secretary.

NORTH BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY.

Established in 1809.
Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament.

The Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the North British Insurance Company was held in the Company's Office in Edinburgh on the 2nd instant, ANDREW COVENTRY, Esq., in the Chair.

A Report by the Directors on the Business of the Year was read to the Meeting, showing that in the LIFE DEPARTMENT, New Policies were issued in the course of the Year ending the 31st December last, insuring the sum of £274,274, and paying in Annual Premiums £291,112, 10s. 6d.

The ANNUAL PROSPECTIVE or INTERMEDIATE BONUS was extended to all Participating Policies that may be effected before the 31st December next.

The following SHAREHOLDERS were then elected President, Vice-Presidents and Directors for the current year:—

PRESIDENT—His Grace the DUKE of ROXBURGHE, K.T.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Most Noble the Marquess of ABERCORN, K.G.
The Right Hon. the Earl of CAMERDOWN, K.T.
The Right Hon. the Earl of STAIR.

LONDON BOARD.

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ROBERT STRACHAN, Esq.—SECRETARY.

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The Rates of Premium are moderate and equitably graduated according to age. Only one-half of the Premiums, with Interest, need be paid during the first five years.

The Profits are distributed every seven years. An Intermediate or Annual Bonus is allowed on Policies which become claims between the periods of Division. Bonus additions may be computed for a cash payment, or applied in reduction of future premiums. Nine-tenths or Ninety per Cent. of seven years' Profits will be divided after the close of 1858.

Forms of Proposals and all necessary information may be obtained on application at the Company's Office.

No. 4, NEW BANK BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C.
March, 1857.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THIRD DIVISION OF PROFITS.

THE unusual success which has attended the cautious yet energetic operations of this Company has enabled the Directors to add Reversionary Bonuses to Policies on the participating class, averaging nearly 23 per cent. per annum on the sum insured, or from 30 to 100 per cent. on the Premiums paid.
Parties insuring with this Company do not incur the risk of Co-partnership, as is the case in Mutual Offices.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

ANNUAL INCOME UPWARDS OF £128,000.

The Funds or Property of the Company as at 31st December, 1855, amounted to £566,124 2s. 6d., invested in Government and other approved Securities.

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

8, WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.

CHARLES DOWNES, Esq., Chairman.

THE HON. FRANCIS SCOTT, M.P., Deputy Chairman.

(By Order)

PATRICK MACINTYRE, Secretary.

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

of the Directors of the MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, together with the CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET for the year 1856, showing the state of the Society's affairs on the 31st of December last, as presented to the General Meeting on the 18th of February, 1857, will be delivered on a written or personal application to the Actuary, or to any of the Society's agents in Great Britain.

CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE,
33, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E. C.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that this Company has RETURNED to its OFFICES, which have been Rebuilt, No. 29, LOMBARD STREET, at the corner of Clement's Lane—OFFICES IN LIVERPOOL—Royal Insurance Buildings, North John Street, and Dale Street.

FIRE BRANCH.

The Fire Premium in 1856 amounted to about £150,000, placing the Company among the very largest offices in the Kingdom, indeed, it is believed that there are only three or four offices which equal it in Fire Revenue. Insurances are received upon nearly all descriptions of Property in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and most Foreign Countries; the rates of premium are exceedingly moderate, and governed in each case by a careful consideration of the risk proposed.

LIFE BRANCH.

The Life Revenue during the past year amounted to about £40,000; the new premiums alone exceeding £10,000. A bonus was declared in 1851 of £2 per cent. per annum on the sum assured, averaging about 80 per cent. of the premiums paid, being one of the largest ever declared. All the Insurances effected during the present year will participate in the next bonus in 1859.

The paid-up and Invested Capital, including Life Funds, amounts to nearly Half a Million Sterling.

PERCY M. DOVE, Manager.

JOHN B. JOHNSON, Secretary to the London Board.

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ESTABLISHED 1830.

T. GEORGE BARCLAY, Esq., Chairman.

MARTIN T. SMITH, Esq., M.P., Deputy-Chairman.

One-Third of the Premium on Insurances of 500l. and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience; or the Directors will lend sums of 50l. and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

Four-Fifths, or 80 per cent. of the Profits are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

At the fifth appropriation of profits for the five years terminating January 31, 1856, a reversionary bonus was declared of 10s. per cent. on the sums insured, and a subsiding addition for every premium paid during the five years. This bonus on policies of the longest duration exceeds 2l. 8s. per cent. per annum on the original sums insured, and increases a policy of 1000l. to 1638l. Proposals for insurances may be made at the chief office, as above; at the branch office, 16, Pall Mall, London; or to any of the agents throughout the kingdom.

BONUS TABLE.

Showing the additions made to Policies of 1000l. each.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1820	323 16 0	114 5 0	1538 1 0
1825	362 14 0	103 14 0	1466 8 0
1830	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1835	185 3 0	87 17 0	1274 0 0
1840	124 15 0	81 13 0	1213 8 0
1845	65 15 0	70 18 0	1145 14 0
1850	10 0 0	1085 15 0	1085 15 0
1855	10 0 0	15 0 0	1015 0 0

And for intermediate years in proportion.

The next appropriation will be made in 1861.

Insurances, without participation in Profits, may be effected at reduced rates.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

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The Premises in Cornhill being now rebuilt, the business will in future be carried on therein.

The Receipts for Fire Policies falling due at Lady Day are now ready at the Head Office in London, and at the respective Agencies in the country.

W. B. LEWIS, Secretary.

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

Notice is hereby given, that the Books for the Transfer of Shares in this Society will be reopened on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of April next.

The Dividends for the year 1856 will be payable on and after MONDAY, the 6th day of April next.

By order of the Directors,
WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

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